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The situation in the Middle East

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Letter dated 7 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 24 November 2011, the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa met in Moscow in the format of BRICS to discuss the situation in the Middle East and North Africa.

The participants at the meting underlined the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the region for greater political and social rights. They agreed that the transformation processes in the region created the need to search for ways of addressing crises in countries in the Middle East and North Africa within the framework of international law and only through peaceful means, without resorting to force, through establishing a broad national dialogue with due respect for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries in the region. They rejected violence as a means of achieving political goals. They emphasized the need for full respect of human rights by all sides, especially by the authorities, in protecting unarmed civilians.

The role of the United Nations Security Council was emphasized, since it bears the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It was noted that all parties should strictly implement the decisions of the Security Council. They noted that it was inadmissible to impose solutions on the States in the Middle East and North Africa through outside intervention in the internal political processes.

The BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers stressed that the only acceptable way to resolve the internal crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic is through urgent peaceful negotiations with the participation of all parties, as provided by the Arab League initiative, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians. Any external interference in Syria's affairs not in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations should be excluded. In this context, the experience of the international community with regard to developments in Libya needs a thorough review to see if the actions taken were in conformity with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

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The participants expressed their support for the Libyan people's democratic aspirations on the basis of public consensus and through a comprehensive national political dialogue with the participation of all segments of Libyan society. They reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the leading role of the United Nations and its Security Council in post-conflict settlement and reconstruction in Libya. In this regard, the participants emphasized the importance of the establishment of the United Nations mission in Libya tasked to support the transition process in the country. They also noted the demand for consolidated efforts by the international community, including those of the African Union, with a view to helping to overcome the devastating consequences of the civil war and reaffirmed the readiness of the BRICS countries to make meaningful contributions to building a free, democratic and stable Libya that enjoys development.

The BRICS countries welcomed the signing of the initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council concerning the peaceful transition of power in Yemen, which took place in Riyadh on 23 November. They fully appreciated the constructive position of the Yemeni parties, which demonstrated their responsibility and concern for the interests of the country and its people. The participants acknowledged the successful efforts undertaken by the international community, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Mr. Abdellatif Zayani, and the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jamal Benomar. The participants called on all the political forces in Yemen to do their utmost now to implement the agreement on transition of power peacefully. The participants considered that the approach adopted for addressing the situation in Yemen, based on the dialogue between the authorities and the opposition, can be applied to similar situations in the region.

The participants agreed that the period of fundamental transformation taking place in the States of the Middle East and North Africa should not be used as a pretext to delay resolution of lasting conflicts but that it should rather serve as an incentive to settle them, in particular the Arab-Israeli one. Resolution of this and other long-standing regional issues would generally improve the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus, at the meeting, the participants confirmed their commitment to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework, including the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The BRICS States support the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations aiming at the establishment of an independent, viable and territorially contiguous Palestinian State with full sovereignty within the 1967 borders, with agreed-upon territorial swaps and with East Jerusalem as its capital. They also encouraged the Quartet to intensify its efforts towards early realization of these goals.

The participants supported Palestinian efforts to achieve membership in the United Nations. They also underscored the importance of direct negotiations between the parties to reach final settlement. They called upon Palestinians and Israelis to take constructive measures, to rebuild mutual trust and to create the right conditions for restarting negotiations, while avoiding unilateral steps, in particular settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They advocated the earliest reunification of the Palestinians. A united position of the Palestinians, based

on the PLO principles and the Arab Peace Initiative, would contribute to progress towards a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, achieving lasting peace and providing security for all the countries and peoples of the region.

The participants were extremely concerned about security and stability in the Gulf region, where they called for political dialogue in resolving differences and are against the use and threat of force. They advocated settling the situation concerning the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran only through political and diplomatic means and establishing dialogue between all the parties concerned, in particular between Iran and the P5+1 group, as well as between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in order to clarify the questions regarding Iran's nuclear programme. It has been emphasized that imposing additional and unilateral sanctions on Iran is counterproductive and would only exacerbate the situation. The BRICS States expressed their hope for the successful holding of the 2012 Conference to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region.

The participants stressed the necessity of building a system of relations in the Gulf region that would guarantee equal and reliable security for all States of the subregion.

The participants agreed on the convenience of regular consultations on the Middle East and North Africa issues in different forums, including the United Nations, and reaffirmed their support for informal meetings among their representatives.

In this regard, I have the honour to request your kind assistance in having the contents of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 29 of Security Council resolution 2010 (2011), in which the Council requested me to report on all aspects of the resolution every four months. The report provides an update on major developments that occurred in Somalia on the three main tracks — (a) political; (b) security; and (c) humanitarian, recovery and development, and human rights — during the period from the issuance of my report of 30 August 2011 (S/2011/549) to 30 November 2011. It also assesses the progress made in carrying out the United Nations strategy for Somalia, as well as the implementation of the road map for ending the transition.

II. Political situation

2. The reporting period was dominated by the adoption by the transitional federal institutions of the comprehensive road map for ending the Somali transition (see appendix), in accordance with the June 2011 Kampala Accord, and subsequent progress towards its implementation.

3. The road map sets out priority tasks to be completed by 20 August 2012 in the areas of security, constitutional reform and elections, outreach and reconciliation, and good governance. It was adopted at a broad-based consultative meeting held in Mogadishu from 4 to 6 September and chaired by my Special Representative. Attendees included the President, the Speaker and the Prime Minister, the Presidents of "Puntland" and "Galmudug", and representatives of Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, as well as members of the diplomatic community in Mogadishu.

4. On 15 October, the Government of Kenya launched "Operation Defend the Nation" into Somali territory. The operation followed a series of kidnappings of foreigners, including aid workers in Kenya, which the country attributes to Al-Shabaab.

5. A joint communiqué issued by the Government of Kenya and the Transitional Federal Government on 18 October stated that the two Governments would cooperate in undertaking security and military operations. In a letter dated 17 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/646), to which the joint communiqué was annexed, the Permanent

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Representative noted that Kenya had decided to take remedial and pre-emptive action. The President and the Prime Minister of Somalia issued a "clarification statement" on 26 October stating that Somalia and Kenya remained committed to working together. An additional joint communiqué of the Transitional Federal Government and Kenya, issued on 31 October, clarified that the Kenyan security operation inside Somalia was aimed at eliminating the threat posed by Al-Shabaab to the national security and economic well-being of Kenya and was based on the legitimate right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. It also stated that the threat must be fought jointly by the two nations with support from the international community. Both the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have expressed their support for the Kenyan security operation.

6. The period saw a jostling for power in the Juba regions of southern Somalia, where several entities emerged that were seeking to establish competing regional administrations. The Transitional Federal Government has expressed its desire to engage those entities in order to address these and other issues.

7. The authorities in "Puntland" and "Somaliland" continued to exchange hostile rhetoric over the disputed regions of Sool and Sanaag. On 8 October, the President of "Somaliland" visited the disputed town of Laascaanood. In a press statement, the "Puntland" administration warned that this might ignite conflict in the area. On 9 November, "Puntland" warned "Somaliland" not to interfere in clan disputes and accused its administration of stirring up public unrest and causing the displacement of people in the Erigavo district of Sanaag region.

8. On 26 October, "Somaliland's" Minister of National Planning and Development introduced a draft national development plan for the period 2012-2016. The plan is aimed at employment generation, human resource development, technological advancement, effective and efficient governance, increased competitiveness and the raising of income levels. Meanwhile, on 25 October, ahead of municipal elections scheduled for April 2012, the "Somaliland" House of Representatives approved a bill lowering the voting eligibility age for municipal elections from 35 to 25. The bill was adopted by the House of Elders on 22 November and is now awaiting approval by the President of "Somaliland".

A. Support for the political process

9. My Special Representative continued to use his good offices to support the transitional federal institutions in implementing the road map in support of the peace process. In this regard, he has engaged Somalis within and outside the country, including members of the Somali diaspora resident in the United States of America, Canada, Denmark and Italy. Meanwhile, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) worked with the Transitional Federal Government to address the emergence of regional administrations, especially those in south-central Somalia.

10. As part of his good offices, my Special Representative made regular visits to Somalia and neighbouring countries. On 23 September, on the margins of the General Assembly, I convened a mini-summit on Somalia to mobilize international support and resources for the Transitional Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Participants, inter alia, urged Somali leaders

to fully implement the road map and welcomed the reopening of the Embassy of Turkey in Mogadishu, as well as the intention of Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to reopen their embassies there.

11. I welcome the continuing work of the International Contact Group on Somalia, which held its 20th meeting in Copenhagen from 29 to 30 September, with the participation of all signatories to the road map. The forum agreed that the timely implementation of the road map would be critical, in particular the drafting and adoption of a constitution, its endorsement by a constituent assembly, and parliamentary reforms, with a view to ending the transition in a timely manner.

B. Implementation of the road map for ending the transition

12. The Security Council, in its resolution 2010 (2011), requested me to provide an update on progress made by the transitional federal institutions in terms of the road map. Regrettably, a number of agreed deadlines were missed. The compliance mechanisms envisaged in the road map — the regional political initiative and the international coordination and monitoring group — have yet to meet. However, a technical committee, comprising representatives of the transitional federal institutions, the regions and the international community, has met twice and agreed that progress will be tracked through four subcommittees (on the finalization of a draft constitution, outreach and reconciliation, parliamentary reform, and good governance), while the Joint Security Committee will take responsibility for security. On 24 November, the Transitional Federal Government produced a progress report that will be evaluated by the technical committee.

13. The following progress has been made on the four priority tasks aimed at ending the transition before 20 August 2012 (see appendix).

Security

14. The Joint Security Committee held a structured two-day meeting in Mogadishu from 27 to 28 October, with expanded representation including from "Puntland", "Galmudug" and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a. The meeting was chaired by my Special Representative and the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government. The Committee agreed on the need for the equitable sharing of resources across the security sector. The draft national security and stabilization plan was approved by the Council of Ministers on 26 October and has been referred to Parliament for adoption.

Constitution

15. There was some progress in the establishment of the technical bodies required to finalize a new constitution for Somalia, although major substantive issues have yet to be resolved. These include the borders of the country, the role of sharia, the nature of the State (federal or unitary) and the system of Government (presidential or parliamentary). In respect of the constitutional drafting process, the Transitional Federal Government appointed a nine-member committee of experts on 23 September that will work together with the existing Independent Federal Constitution Commission to finalize the constitution and carry out public consultation. On 20 November, the Transitional Federal Government appointed a joint committee to prepare for the adoption of the draft constitution and to prepare

recommendations for the reform of the Transitional Federal Parliament. Meanwhile, preparations began for a national consultative constitutional conference to be held in Garoowe from 15 to 18 December to address contentious issues.

16. With regard to electoral preparations, on 17 November the Council of Ministers of the Transitional Federal Government tasked a select Cabinet committee with delivering, by 15 January 2012: (a) draft legislation related to the establishment of an independent electoral commission and nominations for members of the commission; (b) rules governing the conduct of elections at the district, regional and national levels; and (c) laws related to the formation and registration of political parties.

Political outreach and reconciliation

17. The Transitional Federal Government took a number of significant steps to strengthen its relations with regional administrations and civil society. From 26 to 28 November, a civil society meeting was held in Mogadishu. The 60 participants had been selected according to the 4.5 clan-based formula, with six representatives each from the Transitional Federal Government, the Transitional Federal Parliament, the regional administrations and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a. The civil society organizations agreed to endorse the implementation of the road map and that they should play a principal role in such implementation.

Good governance

18. The Transitional Federal Government has reported that its Select Cabinet Committee on Anti-Corruption recommended the re-establishment of the Bureau for Investigation of Corruption on 17 November. On 30 November, the governance subcommittee met at the Ministry of Finance of the Transitional Federal Government for a briefing from the Ministry on revenues, receipts and expenditures, and discussed options and actions aimed at improving accountability and transparency.

C. Targeted sanctions

19. On 13 September, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea received a briefing from the Coordinator of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group on the Group's work programme mandated pursuant to paragraph 6 of Council resolution 2002 (2011).

20. On 9 November, the Committee received a briefing from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the first report of the Emergency Relief Coordinator pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1972 (2011) (see S/2011/694). The Chair of the Committee delivered the 120-day report, pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution 1844 (2008), to the Council on 16 November 2011.

III. Security situation

21. The Transitional Federal Government and its allied forces made continued gains against Al-Shabaab, although these came at a high human cost and the situation remained extremely fluid. By early in November, the Transitional Federal

Government and AMISOM were present across almost all 16 districts in Mogadishu, albeit so thinly stretched that many districts remained insecure. While Al-Shabaab retained little overt combat presence in Mogadishu, its almost daily terrorist attacks, including an attack involving a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that killed more than 170 people on 4 October, reflected technological improvements and placed all areas of Mogadishu at risk.

22. The creation by the Transitional Federal Government of a "Mogadishu security plan" failed to stem the repeated killings perpetrated by some of its armed elements against one another, civilians and internally displaced persons. The threat posed by certain genuine Transitional Federal Government elements was complicated further because some criminals, armed elements and Al-Shabaab fighters wore Transitional Federal Government uniforms when carrying out attacks. Furthermore, civil unrest against Government-instigated aid diversion and mismanagement grew.

23. Groups and entities loosely allied with the Transitional Federal Government have expanded their presence in Gedo and Juba Hoose regions, following the start of the Kenyan operation on 15 October.

24. In Galguduud and Hiraan, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, with the support of Ethiopia, continued to fight Al-Shabaab.

25. Multiple killings and attacks over clan, criminal, piracy and terrorist issues have taken place in "Puntland". Actual and threatened abductions of aid workers included the hostage-taking of two Danish Demining Group staff in southern Gaalkacyo on 25 October.

A. Progress towards the full deployment and strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia

26. AMISOM, supported by the United Nations, has continued to intensify efforts towards reaching its mandated troop strength of 12,000 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1964 (2010). Currently, the strength of the force stands at approximately 9,800. One additional battalion from Djibouti and another from Burundi are expected to deploy in December 2011 and January 2012, respectively, together with contingent-owned equipment. This would bring the total force strength of AMISOM to approximately 11,500. In addition, 14 staff officers from the East African Standby Brigade Coordination Mechanism were deployed on 4 October 2011 to reinforce the AMISOM force headquarters.

27. The United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) continued to provide logistical support as authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2010 (2011). It continued to improve AMISOM communications and information technology networks, and continued its medical support for AMISOM, conducting 58 medical evacuation, transfer and repatriation flights from Mogadishu for a total of 163 AMISOM personnel from 16 August to 30 November 2011. The African Union/United Nations Information Support Team continued to assist in shaping the information environment and enhancing the visibility of AMISOM. In addition, UNSOA upgraded essential supplies and services and established a ration supply chain, which helped to improve operations as well as the quality of life of AMISOM personnel.

28. With the expansion of AMISOM across Mogadishu, planning and construction are under way to provide facilities in north-eastern Mogadishu. Progress continues to be made in the construction of permanent facilities, both prefabricated and locally built. The air terminal, forward logistics base and kitchen at the University base are now operational. Phase 1 of the permanent headquarters is to be completed early in 2012. Initial support facilities for the incoming Djibouti battalion are under construction with a view to meeting its deployment timelines. Moreover, UNSOA supported the African Union and AMISOM in providing predeployment training in Burundi and Djibouti and in conducting technical inspections of contingent-owned equipment.

29. UNSOA continued to prioritize the training of AMISOM personnel to improve capacity in line with Security Council resolution 1863 (2009). So far, a total of more than 2,505 personnel have been trained in various programmes relevant to peacekeeping.

30. The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) supported the African Union Peace Support Operations Division in the day-to-day management and planning of the deployment of AMISOM. In order to enable the African Union to gain real-time situational awareness of AMISOM operations, UNOAU planners are assisting in the operationalization of the Peace Support Operations Centre in Addis Ababa.

31. The United Nations continues to work closely with the African Union in planning the next phase of operations for AMISOM, taking into account the new realities created in Mogadishu and southern Somalia. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, my Special Representative for Somalia and the Head of UNOAU participated in a ministerial-level meeting of AMISOM troop-contributing countries and other interested countries, namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, held in Addis Ababa on 14 November 2011. The participants agreed to continue joint planning activities in order to develop options for tying together all the ongoing military operations in Somalia into a coordinated and coherent effort against Al-Shabaab, to extend the authority of the Transitional Federal Government beyond the capital and to create space for the effective implementation of the road map. In this context, United Nations planners worked with the African Union, AMISOM and troop contributors to develop a draft strategic concept for AMISOM future operations, which would form a basis for detailed military and police planning, including the revision of the concept of operations.

32. On 2 December, these issues were considered in meetings of the Chiefs of Defence Staff of AMISOM and the African Union Peace and Security Council. The latter adopted a communiqué requesting Kenya to favourably consider the integration of its forces into AMISOM, and welcomed the decision of Ethiopia to support the AMISOM-Transitional Federal Government-Kenya operation. The Peace and Security Council requested the African Union Commission to expedite, together with the United Nations and other partners, the finalization of the strategic concept for its early consideration. Moreover, it requested the Commission to make recommendations aimed at enhancing the mandate of AMISOM and to authorize its strengthening as required. The Peace and Security Council also decided to authorize AMISOM to train and deploy vessel protection detachments. It urged the United Nations Security Council to expand the United Nations support package to meet, from United Nations assessed contributions, the requirements set out in the strategic

concept, including the provision of force enablers and multipliers, the deployment of AMISOM vessel protection detachments, reimbursement for troop allowances and contingent-owned equipment, and the deployment of formed police units, as well as the integration of Kenyan troops into AMISOM. The Peace and Security Council reiterated its request to the Security Council to adopt a resolution enforcing measures aimed at controlling access to the ports of Kismaayo, Xarardheere, Marka and Baraawe and an air exclusion zone. The Peace and Security Council also encouraged the Security Council to consider creative and action-oriented steps, including an immediate partial rehatting of AMISOM as a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the sector of Mogadishu and its environs with a peace consolidation mandate, while the efforts led by the African Union and the Transitional Federal Government would continue in the rest of Somalia.

33. AMISOM continues to face serious resource gaps. Reimbursements to troop contributors for contingent-owned equipment are now nine months in arrears, owing to insufficient resources in the trust fund. Troop-contributing countries face significant equipment shortfalls, and lack enablers and force multipliers required by the difficult security environment. As the situation on the ground continues to evolve, with an increasing likelihood that AMISOM will soon deploy troops outside Mogadishu, it is necessary that funding be adequate, secure and predictable in order to facilitate better planning and operational capabilities.

34. AMISOM engineers began demining training in September. This will improve the Mission's capacity to clear and secure newly taken areas of the capital. AMISOM destroyed 1,735 explosive items, including 1,720 items of unexploded ordnance and 15 improvised explosive devices.

B. Strengthening of the Somali security institutions

35. In addition to the progress made in finalizing the draft national security and stabilization plan referred to in paragraph 14 above, the international community continued its support for the building of Somali security institutions.

Military

36. As of the end of November, according to payroll data, the Somali National Security Force numbered some 10,300 troops within Mogadishu. This included 869 recruits who had completed their training with the European Union training mission in Uganda in September. An additional 620 troops, non-commissioned officers and officers began training with the mission in November. Stipends for June and July 2011 were paid in August. The stipends for August and September for troops paid by the United States of America were disbursed in mid-November. The United States will provide funding for stipends for 7,034 National Security Force troops until mid-2012. Italy and the African Union are working on the payment of stipends for the remaining 3,274 National Security Force troops.

37. A source of ongoing concern is the lack of barracks accommodation for trained Transitional Federal Government troops, which is resulting in loose discipline of and control over the troops. The expansion of Jazeera camp, funded by the European Union, continues; it will provide accommodation for 2,000 troops when completed.

Police

38. The total strength of the Somali Police Force, trained with international assistance, currently stands at 5,370.

39. During the reporting period, the Somali Police Force undertook to expand its coverage to all areas captured by the Transitional Federal Government forces supported by AMISOM in Mogadishu, with special attention to camps for internally displaced persons and food distribution points. Police stations were inspected with a view to rehabilitation or reconstruction, while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed proposals for mobile police posts for key strategic areas.

40. Police stipends are nine months in arrears. With support from Japan and the European Union, UNPOS, UNDP and AMISOM completed payments for 3,074 Somali Police Force officers for January to May 2010, and 3,500 police are in the process of being paid their stipends for June to September 2010. Funding has been committed for stipends for October 2010 to February 2011. Efforts have been made for the payment of four months' allowance to 1,314 Somali police officers who took a 2011 refresher course at the Mogadishu Police Academy. In addition, UNDP and UNPOS facilitated the distribution of blue uniforms, helmets and handcuffs to trained personnel.

41. In "Puntland", the Peacebuilding Fund has provided $3 million to support efforts to professionalize the police and address community tensions by assisting with the permanent resettlement of internally displaced persons. During the reporting period, UNDP trained 600 police officers, including 20 women, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted the permanent settlement of internally displaced persons, with the local authorities providing 378 land titles in Gaalkacyo, "Puntland".

Mine action

42. During the reporting period, the Transitional Federal Government police responded to 59 calls relating to explosive threats, recovering 256 items of unexploded ordnance and 11 improvised explosive devices. This gradual scaling-up of capacity illustrates the ability of the Transitional Federal Government to respond in areas where AMISOM cannot, while providing a clear safety and security service for the Somali population.

Justice and corrections

43. As at 30 November, 104 judges and prosecutors in Mogadishu, "Somaliland" and "Puntland" were enrolled in training courses supported by UNDP and implemented by University law faculties in Mogadishu, Garoowe and Hargeysa. The courses will be completed in December 2011. Somali legal aid providers supported by UNDP handled more than 5,000 cases in 2011. UNDP also continued to support 27 legal aid centres throughout Somalia, working through bar associations, university law faculties and local non-governmental organizations.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

44. The Transitional Federal Government has established an interim inter-ministerial coordination committee to address the issue of disengaging

combatants and other armed militia members and youth. UNPOS, IGAD, AMISOM and members of the inter-agency working group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Somalia have expressed their readiness to provide technical support to the committee. However, the 60 ex-combatants referred to in my previous report remain in Transitional Federal Government cantonment at the Marino site in Mogadishu, and their number is reported to have grown. The status of the group at the Marino site remains unclear, and there has been no progress in addressing the situation on the ground.

C. Piracy

45. Since my report of 25 October 2011 pursuant to Security Council resolution 1950 (2010) (S/2011/662), the number of ships held has fallen from 15 to 14, while the total number of hostages has dropped from 316 to 290, according to the International Maritime Organization. On 17 November, following its 10th plenary meeting, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, inter alia, underlined its support for the Kampala process facilitating dialogue among Somali authorities, and noted the United Nations call to consider convening future meetings of the Contact Group and/or its working groups inside Somalia to strengthen coordination on the ground.

46. The United Nations continues to implement counter-piracy programmes in the Somali criminal justice sector, as well as public information campaigns in south central Somalia and "Puntland". The counter-piracy work carried out in "Somaliland" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will come to an end early in 2012, following the decision of "Somaliland" to withdraw from the agreement to accept convicted pirates from Seychelles, and the unexplained release of pirates from Hargeysa prison.

47. Regarding the management of the natural resources and waters of Somalia, particularly in relation to piracy, there have been no significant developments since my report of 25 October 2011 (S/2011/661), despite the priority placed on this issue in the road map.

IV. Humanitarian, recovery and development, and human rights situations

A. Humanitarian situation

48. During September, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate and famine spread to new areas of southern Somalia. In addition to southern Bakool, Shabelle Hoose, parts of Shabelle Dhexe, and hosting areas for internally displaced persons in the Afgooye corridor and in Mogadishu — where famine began between July and August 2011 — famine was declared in the entire Bay region early in September. An estimated 750,000 people were living in the famine-affected areas and were at risk of death.

49. From October onwards, the trend changed and three of the six affected regions, Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle, were lifted out of famine in mid-November, although they remain at pre-famine levels. This was due to the increased

humanitarian assistance in the areas in crisis in southern Somalia. These improvements can be sustained only if the current level of emergency assistance continues. Famine persists in parts of Middle Shabelle and among the internally displaced populations of Afgooye and Mogadishu. An estimated 4 million Somalis remain in an acute food and livelihood crisis countrywide, with 250,000 still at risk of death.

50. Despite access constraints, humanitarian organizations have been able to scale up their activities since famine was declared. In many parts of the country, however, access to populations in crisis is granted only after lengthy negotiations and is limited to specific humanitarian sectors or districts.

51. On 28 November, Al-Shabaab banned six United Nations agencies and 10 non-governmental organizations from operating in territories that it controls, and occupied humanitarian compounds in Hudur and Wajid in Bakool region, Baidoa in Bay region, Belet Weyne in Hiraan region and Marka in Lower Shabelle region. Five humanitarian staff members were held for up to two days before being released unharmed, and several humanitarian compounds were looted. While some non-governmental organizations remain, Al-Shabaab's decision places at risk the fragile improvement in the humanitarian situation in southern Somalia, where 3 million Somalis remain in humanitarian crisis.

52. The start of the October-December rains had a negative impact on the population in crisis, triggering a rise in water-borne respiratory diseases and malaria, potentially fatal to malnourished populations. The rains prompted planting activities in southern Somalia; however, reduced agricultural production is expected in the Deyr harvest in January, given the large population migration from the affected areas in recent months.

53. After a decline in September, internal displacement increased dramatically in October, when fighting resumed in Mogadishu and parts of southern Somalia. External displacement rates decreased compared with the third quarter of the year, with only 67,000 Somalis seeking refuge in neighbouring countries between September and November. This is attributed to fighting in areas bordering Kenya, which made it almost impossible for refugees to cross the border.

54. Humanitarian funding for Somalia continued to increase, although not at the same rate as in July and August. The Consolidated Appeal for Somalia has been the most comprehensively funded appeal in 2011, with more than $800 million received out of the $1 billion requested. Traditional and non-traditional donors have responded generously to the needs of the Somali people, especially since famine began.

Humanitarian activities

55. The fourth quarter of the year saw a significant scaling-up in humanitarian deliveries in nearly all sectors, including food, water, nutrition and health. In October, more than 2.6 million Somalis received food assistance. So far this year, more than 1.2 million people have benefited from access to sustainable water, including 575,000 since the outbreak of the crisis in July, and more than 1.8 million people have been provided with temporary provision of safe water, with the majority reached since July. From 30 to 31 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited settlements of internally displaced persons in

Dolo and Mogadishu, where he called on all parties to cease violence, respect humanitarian law and allow unfettered access to all people in need.

56. Since the declaration of famine, the World Food Programme has scaled up its response, whose coverage rose from a monthly average of 700,000 people in July to more than 1.1 million in October. Nonetheless, the conflict, poor road infrastructure exacerbated by above-average rains, congestion at ports and insecurity continue to impede access to parts of the country, and significant gaps are still reported in the regions of Juba Hoose, Shabelle Dhexe and southern Galguduud.

57. In September and October, partners of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reached some 65,000 children, out of the 450,000 acutely malnourished children under 5 years of age, mainly in the south, where 75 per cent of acutely malnourished children live. As a measure to prevent further malnutrition and mortality among those at risk, agencies continued to support an average of 50,000 families per month through blanket supplementary feeding programmes. In addition, 20,000 families were admitted into "wet feeding" programmes.

58. During the reporting period, humanitarian mine action actors cleared more than 7 km^2 of land for use by the local population, destroying 383 explosive items, including 7 anti-personnel mines, 2 anti-tank mines and 374 items of unexploded ordnance. To mitigate the impact of such devices, awareness messages were disseminated to more than 25,000 people in September.

B. Recovery and development activities

59. During November, the United Nations, together with Government counterparts and civil society, set joint priorities for 2012 under the United Nations Somali Assistance Strategy. In addition, the "Somaliland" national development plan was discussed by donors, non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and the World Bank at a high-level aid coordination forum held in Hargeysa on 22 November.

60. Under the social services outcome of the Assistance Strategy, access to health care, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene increased. The implementation of the essential package of health services began in "Somaliland" and "Puntland". The introduction of public-private partnerships relating to rural water supplies in "Puntland" and "Somaliland" progressed, with new water companies being formed to operate water supplies. Preparations for the major rehabilitation of water systems in two villages began in November, and the rehabilitation of other small-scale water supplies and schools and health-care facilities continued throughout "Puntland" and "Somaliland".

61. Under the poverty reduction and livelihoods outcome of the Assistance Strategy, more than 150,000 households in southern and central Somalia benefited from a cash-for-work programme and employment creation. Agricultural inputs were distributed to 158,000 households in southern Somalia, and 2.6 million animals were vaccinated. A public-private partnership relating to solid waste and water supply management was established in Mogadishu. In "Puntland", the United Nations built fish markets, undertook the mass treatment of livestock in seven districts and provided microfinance. In "Somaliland", the United Nations implemented water schemes, constructed health facilities and rehabilitated roads.

62. In September, under the good governance and human security outcome of the Assistance Strategy, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime led a mission to Mogadishu in order to plan an assessment of the Somali prison sector with the Minister of Justice. This will build on the findings of the report by the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the current situation within the Mogadishu central prison. In "Somaliland", the Ministry of Finance, with the support of UNDP, increased its third-quarter revenue collection to $24 million, reflecting a 90 per cent increase compared with the same quarter in 2010. This enabled the Government to double the salaries of civil servants and security personnel.

C. Stabilization and recovery efforts in Mogadishu

63. The United Nations continued projects aimed at improving security in Mogadishu, including the removal of explosive remnants of war. Through the joint Youth for Change project, the United Nations supported district safety committees. UNDP provided medical referral, psychosocial support and legal advice to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and reached agreement with the Chief Justice of the Somali Supreme Court to support mobile courts. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme undertook consultations on a new programme designed to provide sustainable employment to approximately 1,000 people and 15,000 temporary workdays through the improvement of economic infrastructure. In November, the International Organization for Migration began a new three-month waste sanitation programme to provide emergency livelihood support for 800 internally displaced persons, most of whom are women.

64. As part of its recovery and stabilization strategy for Mogadishu, the United Nations presented a phased strategy and set of viable projects to the International Contact Group meeting in Copenhagen on 30 September. Some projects are ongoing, as described above, but further implementation depends on the future availability of funds. The strategy, which was agreed upon with United Nations agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations, ministries of the Transitional Federal Government and the Benadir administration, builds on Transitional Federal Government priorities (human security, basic services and employment) agreed upon in June. The activities complement the humanitarian response and incorporate principles of sustainability, accountability and transparency.

65. Some ministries of the Transitional Federal Government, including the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Education, delivered some support to schools in Mogadishu. However, the Transitional Federal Government's collection of revenue in certain areas, such as port fees and bilateral donor aid to individuals and ministries in the Government, remains opaque. The Ministry of Finance has stated that customs from the seaport and airport go to the Central Bank and are accounted for by the Accountant General and the Auditor General. Expenditure by the Transitional Federal Government has focused on operating costs, including the payment of salaries for civil servants and ministry overheads. There is a lack of information regarding municipal taxes collected from local markets and businesses, and the legislation for telecommunications and the media sector needs to be revised and uniformly applied. The Central Bank Act of 2011 was adopted by Cabinet and Parliament in September,

while the Financial Institutions Act and the Public Finance Management Act are both pending.

D. Human rights and protection of civilians

66. Al-Shabaab is reported to be forcibly recruiting in Lower Shebelle and executing people on suspicion of spying. Grenade attacks against the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM often result in civilian deaths.

67. Increased military operations in the southern regions of Somalia resulted in civilian casualties and displacement. On 30 October, an air strike in Jilib town in Juba Dhexe reportedly killed at least 3 people and wounded more than 50, most of them women and children. Kenya has announced that it will investigate all reports of civilian casualties linked to its operation. On 31 October, in a joint communiqué issued by Somalia and Kenya, the Transitional Federal Government committed to seeking the assistance of the International Criminal Court in investigating Al-Shabaab for crimes against humanity, with a view to its indictment.

68. In Mogadishu, there were numerous reports of looting, murder and sexual violence carried out by armed men in military uniforms against internally displaced people. The Transitional Federal Government emergency decree of 13 August 2011, which prohibits militia from entering camps for the internally displaced, is largely unenforced. Trials have resulted in death sentences and some executions, despite the moratorium on the death penalty announced in the context of the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council. The review was concluded in September and resulted in the adoption by Somalia of all 155 recommendations made to improve the human rights situation in the country.

69. On 10 November, a UNCHR-commissioned report entitled "Civilian harm in Somalia: creating an appropriate response" was issued. The report, by the non-governmental organization Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict (CIVIC), recommends the establishment of a cell to track, analyse, investigate and respond to all incidents of civilian harm. AMISOM fully endorsed the report, and funding will be sought from donors to establish the cell and the related compensation mechanism.

70. "Puntland" is drawing up legislation on female genital mutilation and on the establishment of human rights institutions. Meanwhile, the arrest and detention of more than 300 youths in "Puntland" on suspicion of linkages with Al-Shabaab raised serious concern.

E. Child protection

71. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict visited Mogadishu on 23 November to support the efforts of the United Nations country task force in advancing the dialogue with the Government on ending grave violations against children. During the visit, she secured a commitment from the President and the Prime Minister to prepare an action plan for ending the recruitment and use of children by the Transitional Federal Government, in line with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). Furthermore, new military and civilian

focal points were nominated by the Transitional Federal Government to work with the United Nations to this end.

72. An unconfirmed number of former Al-Shabaab child recruits are being held by the Transitional Federal Government; my Special Representative was able to meet with some of them. Since her visit, UNICEF has undertaken to provide reintegration assistance to these children, and to assist the Government in finding an alternative site where child-specific services can be provided. Ensuring that children formerly associated with Al-Shabaab have access to care in accordance with international norms and standards for child protection will be a priority in the months to come.

73. More than 200 grave violations against children were reportedly committed during the reporting period, involving primarily child recruitment, the use of children in hostilities, killing and maiming, attacks on schools and the denial of humanitarian access and perpetrated mainly by Al-Shabaab in south-central Somalia.

74. Despite the fact that Al-Shabaab had blocked the establishment by the United Nations of child-friendly spaces, more than 36,000 children have gained access to these facilities, which have registered 378 separated children.

75. The United Nations in Somalia continued its efforts to address child protection concerns through the country task force on monitoring and reporting, which met for the second time in October. In addition, a Child Protection Adviser has been seconded to UNPOS.

F. Women and peace and security

76. On 14 November, UNPOS supported the Transitional Federal Government Minister of Women's Development and Family Affairs in convening a meeting with representatives of 32 Somali women's organizations from south-central Somalia, "Puntland", Galmuduug and the diaspora, in order to develop effective strategies for ensuring women's engagement in the transitional tasks. The United Nations is also supporting the conduct of consultations on women's political participation in "Somaliland" pursuant to a presidential decree issued in September.

77. From 22 to 24 November, the African Union and the United Nations conducted predeployment training in Bujumbura for 40 officers from an incoming Burundi battalion, in order to build awareness and reinforce the policy of zero tolerance for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by AMISOM peacekeepers.

V. Coordination

A. The United Nations presence and coordinated approach in Somalia

78. The integrated strategic framework that guides United Nations activity in Somalia has been revised and aligned with the road map. Despite the challenging and volatile security situation, United Nations operations in Somalia see an average of 1,000 personnel present in the country daily. Risks are being managed through regular assessments, including through decisions on acceptable risk and the deployment of additional security capacity and of lifesaving and evacuation assets.

79. As at 30 November, UNPOS had deployed 28 personnel inside Somalia, with 14 in Hargeysa, 10 in Garoowe and 4 in Mogadishu. Full deployment of staff is expected following the construction of sufficient accommodation that meets minimum security standards. Permanent accommodation for approximately 32 UNPOS and UNSOA staff is due to be completed by the end of 2011.

80. Negotiations were initiated with the Transitional Federal Government for the conclusion of status-of-mission agreements for both UNPOS and UNSOA. In addition, my Special Representative wrote to the regional authorities in "Puntland" and "Somaliland", specifying the privileges, immunities, facilities, exemptions and rights to be accorded to UNPOS and its personnel.

B. Cooperation among the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations

81. The United Nations works closely with African Union and IGAD counterparts in all aspects of its work on Somalia. The holding of monthly coordination meetings among UNPOS, AMISOM and IGAD at the technical and principals levels continued. The principals of AMISOM and IGAD met in Addis Ababa on 23 August 2011 to forge a common position on the peace process in Somalia as well as a standing arrangement for reporting, capacity-building and the sharing of information with the Transitional Federal Government.

82. Furthermore, the United Nations is working closely with AMISOM and IGAD to enhance cooperation among civilian personnel working on Somalia. This includes increased collaboration on security, political, recovery and humanitarian activities through joint analyses, briefings and missions to Somalia, as well as technical support and training.

83. A joint political strategy is being prepared among the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations with a view to providing directions that would be supported by the African Union's military strategic concept. This is aimed at ensuring optimal coordination in order to enhance the successful implementation of the road map.

VI. Resource mobilization

84. The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of AMISOM received an uncaveated contribution of $500,000 from India. In addition, the United Kingdom pledged £60,000 for AMISOM troop welfare. Negotiations are ongoing with Canada and Denmark, regarding possible support. The Trust Fund has an uncommitted balance of $6.1 million, mainly caveated for non-military purposes.

85. The Trust Fund for Peacebuilding in Somalia received €300,000 ($413,160) from Finland to support an UNPOS project on outreach and reconciliation in Somalia, as well as $47,065 from Switzerland to support the technical committee tasked with facilitation, coordination and oversight of the implementation of the road map. The Trust Fund for Peacebuilding in Somalia has an uncommitted balance of $1.5 million.

86. The trust fund in support of Somali transitional security institutions has an uncommitted balance of $400,000.

87. Early in November, my Special Representative and the Prime Minister jointly signed an estimate of resources required for the implementation of the road map. The total amount, $35.6 million, is based on a mapping exercise and gap analysis conducted by the Transitional Federal Government and UNPOS. It excludes needs related to the security benchmark, which would require separate costing.

88. Since its inception, in January 2010, the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has received $11 million in contributions and has disbursed $7 million.

VII. Observations/recommendations

89. Over the years, the Transitional Federal Government has faced several challenges, has overcome some of them, and has had to confront new challenges. The resilience of the Government indicates that, with determination and proper support, it can begin to anchor itself across Somalia. This will require fortitude and full engagement with the road map, and the ability to cooperate internally and coordinate with external actors.

90. Somalia has been a priority, and my commitment is steadfast. The United Nations is determined to support the return of Somalia to normalcy.

91. We must continue to approach the complex problems in Somalia with care and sensitivity. As we move towards the end of the transition in August 2012, special efforts should be made to protect the hard-won security and political gains of the past few years. We must ensure that all efforts ultimately contribute to the delivery of the road map. I hope that the upcoming events, such as those planned in London and Istanbul, will help to strengthen our engagement on ways to support Somalia.

92. The Security Council, in its resolution 2010 (2011), requested me to provide an update on progress made by the transitional federal institutions against the road map. Regrettably, as outlined in paragraphs 12 to 18 above, some agreed deadlines have been missed. While I welcome the movement on process, the transitional federal institutions must make tangible progress on the key deliverables, especially those that require minimal resources. Priorities over the next few months include the adoption of the national security and stabilization plan by Parliament, the finalization of the constitution and the reform of Parliament.

93. In this regard, it is important to note that spoilers may be subject to targeted measures and that the Security Council has frequently stated that future support for the transitional federal institutions will be contingent upon the completion of these tasks. While I welcome the stated commitment on combating corruption, I urge the Transitional Federal Government to redouble its efforts to eliminate any suspected financial corruption or mishandling of donor assistance.

94. While I laud the generosity of donors, especially in response to the humanitarian catastrophe, the resources available to the United Nations and AMISOM for Somalia are not commensurate with the challenges or the mandates given. I recognize the need for austerity measures in the current economic and financial climate, but, even with increased revenue collection, Somalia needs sustained help in order to implement the road map. I welcome and encourage the role of new donors in this regard.

95. At the same time, Somalia must take full charge of its own affairs. It should generate and use its own resources to build institutional capacity. The United Nations stands ready to support the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government to improve revenue collection. This is essential for the long-term viability of the country.

96. Recalling the relevant provisions of resolutions 1964 (2010) and 2010 (2011), I renew the appeal to Member States, made in my previous report, to immediately provide support for the deployment of AMISOM troops.

97. The significant achievements of AMISOM must not divert attention from the fact that it remains underequipped and underfunded. As I have stated in my previous reports, critical gaps also remain in the United Nations support package for AMISOM, particularly the lack of force multipliers and reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, which needs to be made more predictable and sustainable. Reimbursements are currently nine months in arrears, placing an unacceptable strain on the limited financial resources of troop-contributing countries that are already making tremendous sacrifices on behalf of the international community. Furthermore, in the event that AMISOM troops begin to be deployed outside Mogadishu, the operational requirements necessitate enablers and force multipliers to effectively hold Mogadishu and provide essential mobility.

98. I therefore intend to engage the Security Council in discussions on the inclusion of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and the provision of force multipliers such as helicopter units and transport and engineering capabilities within the United Nations support package for AMISOM. Further to the decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 2 December, the United Nations will continue to engage in the ongoing planning process and will propose options to the Security Council upon the finalization of the strategic concept for future operations described in paragraph 31 and 32 above.

99. I welcome the approval of the national security and stabilization plan by the Council of Ministers and urge its early parliamentary approval. The United Nations remains committed to assisting the Transitional Federal Government in developing its security and police forces, but re-emphasizes the need for accountability and transparency, and for the effective receipt, control and management of equipment and resources provided by donors. I am grateful to Member States and regional organizations for their support, both through bilateral arrangements and through the auspices of the Joint Security Committee, and urge others to contribute to this effort.

100. With strong emergency support from donors, the humanitarian community made strides towards reversing famine by rapidly scaling up its response. By November, three of the six regions where famine had been declared during the previous reporting period, Bay, Bakool and Shabelle Hoose, had been lifted to pre-famine levels and the number of Somalis facing famine had been reduced from 750,000 to 250,000. However, these fragile improvements can be sustained only if the current level of emergency assistance continues, which will require a significant commitment on the part of donors to funding the Consolidated Appeal for 2012.

101. I am also concerned by Al-Shabaab's ban on several United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations operating in areas under its control, which places at risk the fragile improvements at a time when 3 million Somalis in southern Somalia remain in humanitarian crisis. In addition, I remain concerned about the

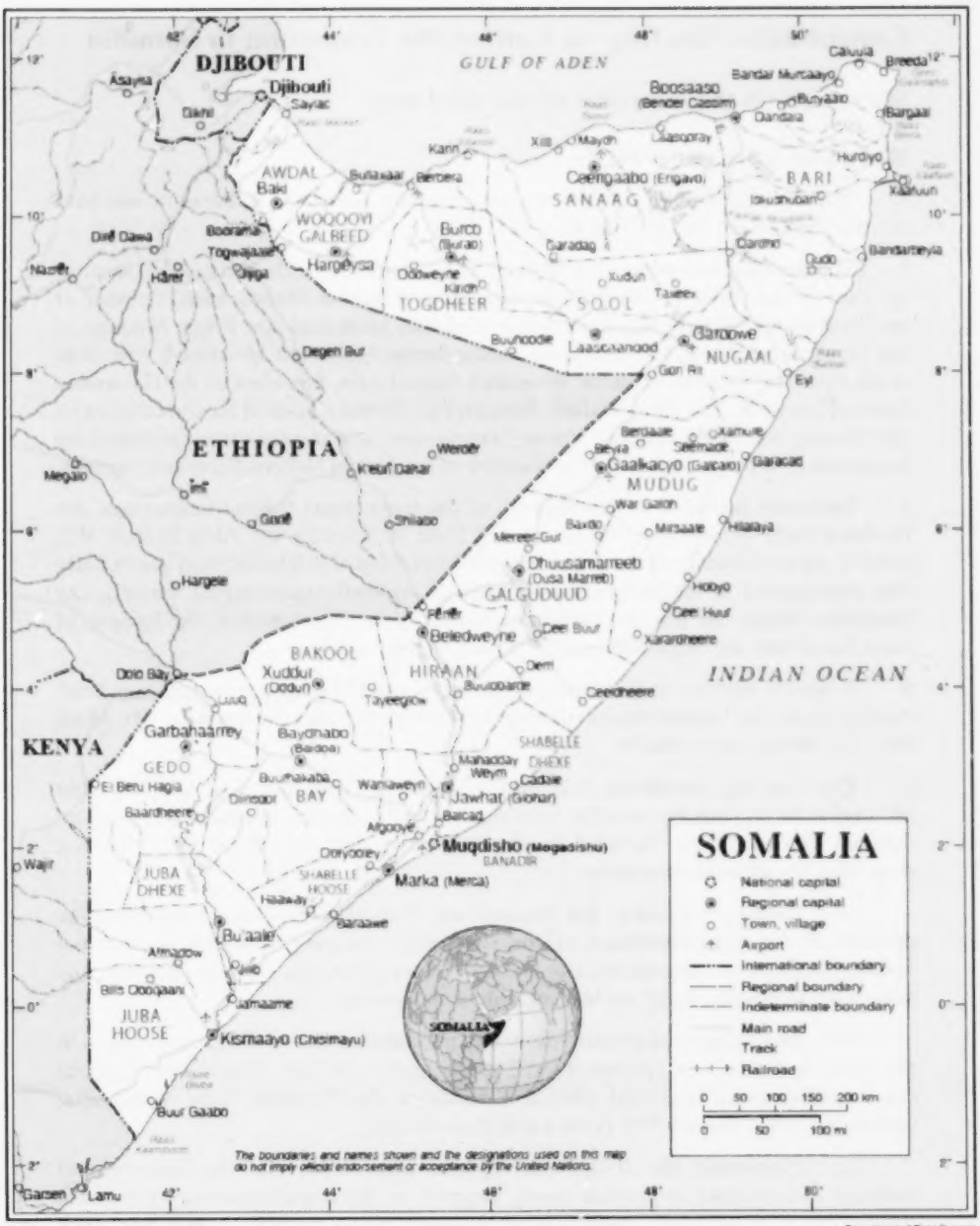
impact that ongoing fighting is having on civilians. I reiterate that all parties to the conflict must respect humanitarian law and thereby refrain from actions that would cause further displacements or disrupt humanitarian access to those in need.

102. I welcome the United Nations strategy for recovery and stabilization in Mogadishu. While some projects are ongoing, further implementation depends on the future availability of funds and on expanded and secure access to Mogadishu. I urge donors to provide additional and flexible funds that permit rapid disbursements to address the immediate needs of the population.

103. I am deeply concerned over continuing grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, especially against women and children, and call on all parties to immediately cease these violations and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. I welcome the agreement between the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Prime Minister to establish a joint task force to address gender-based violence and to protect civilians, and encourage relevant parties to move this swiftly forward. I also welcome the recommitment of the Transitional Federal Government to the signing and implementation of a Security Council-mandated plan for ending the recruitment and use of children by its forces, and look forward to the timely completion of the plan. I urge the Transitional Federal Government to work with the United Nations system in ensuring that children separated from the security forces, as well as from Al-Shabaab, receive appropriate immediate and long-term services.

104. As stated in my previous report, the increased presence of the United Nations in Somalia will enhance engagement with the authorities, especially in support of the implementation of the transitional tasks and the road map. In this regard, I welcome my Special Representative's imminent relocation to Mogadishu. I also welcome the opening of the Turkish Embassy in Mogadishu and the commitment expressed by the United Kingdom and Italy to do the same, security permitting. I urge others to follow suit.

105. Finally, I pay tribute to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their continued sacrifice and commitment with respect to the cause of peace in Somalia. I reiterate my condolences to the families of the victims, including the relatives of the forces of the Transitional Federal Government, its allies and AMISOM soldiers who have lost their lives. I also express my gratitude to my Special Representative for his dedication and commitment to advancing the cause of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia. The men and women serving in the United Nations and partner organizations who operate under difficult conditions have a special role in ensuring that Somalis receive the best that the international community has to offer.


DJIBOUTI
GULF OF ADEN
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
INDIAN OCEAN
SOMALIA
National capital
Regional capital
Town, village
Airport
International boundary
Regional boundary
Indeterminate boundary
Main road
Track
Railroad
Muqdisho (Mogadishu)
Baydhabo (Baidoa)
Garbahaarrey
Beledweyne
Dhuusamarreeb (Dusa Marreb)
Gaalkacyo (Galcaio)
Garoowe
Boosaaso (Bender Qassim)
Ceerigaabo (Erigavo)
Burco (Burao)
Hargeysa
Berbera
Kismaayo (Chisimayu)
Jamaame
Marka (Merca)
Jawhar (Gohar)
Baardheere
Luuq
Dolo Bay
Dollow
Belet Hawa
Bulo Burte
Buur Gaabo
Garissa
Lamu
Wajir
Mandera
Moyale
Negele
Dire Dawa
Jijiga
Degeh Bur
Gode
Shilabo
Werder
Kelafo
Obbia
Hobyo
Harardheere
Eyl
Bandarbeyla
Qandala
Bargaal
Caluula
Bandar Murcaayo
Buuhoodle
Laasqoray
Xiis
Kalabaydh
Xudun
Taleex
Dararweyne
Qardho
Iskushuban
Hurdiyo
Kaambuuni
Ceel Afweyn
Ceel Buur
Ceel Dheer
Adado
Dhusamareb
Galkacyo
Jariiban
Mataban
Bulo Burte
Belet Weyne
Jowhar
Afgooye
Baraawe
Kismaayo
Buur Gaabo
Garissa
Lamu
Map no. 3690 Rev. 9 UNITED NATIONS
May 2011 (B&W)
Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Annex

Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia

Statement on the adoption of the road map

Mogadishu, 6 September 2011

1. The first Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia was held in Mogadishu from 4 to 6 September 2011.

2. The meeting was addressed by H.E. Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, President of the Transitional Federal Government; Hon. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, Speaker of the Transitional Federal Parliament; H.E. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government; Abdirahman Mohamed Mohamud, President of the Puntland State of Somalia; Mohamed Ahmed Alin, President of the Galmudug State of Somalia; and Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The meeting was facilitated by Augustine P. Mahiga, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

3. Delegates included representatives of the transitional federal institutions, the Puntland State of Somalia, the Galmudug State of Somalia and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a. Approximately three dozen stakeholders from the international community also participated in the proceedings, including regional organizations, namely, the European Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

4. A special session on the humanitarian crisis and the ongoing drought was held, during which the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mr. Mark Bowden, briefed participants.

5. The meeting considered four priority tasks for ending the transition before 20 August 2012, namely, security, constitution, reconciliation and good governance; adopted the road map outlined in the appendix; and agreed to the following principles for its implementation:

(a) Somali ownership: the Transitional Federal Government shall lead the process of the implementation of the road map, working with the Transitional Federal Parliament, regional entities and all sectors of society, including women, the business community, religious leaders, elders and youth;

(b) Inclusivity and participation: the implementation of the priority tasks in the road map shall be inclusive with participation of the Transitional Federal Government, the Transitional Federal Parliament, the Puntland State of Somalia, Galmudug, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a and civil society;

(c) Resources: the transitional federal institutions and the international community undertake to provide timely support for the implementation of the road map in line with a resource mobilization plan with milestones which shall be agreed within 21 days. Financial support by the international community shall be on a results basis and contingent upon the implementation of the priority tasks in the road map;

(d) In view of the limited time and resources, the transitional federal institutions and the international community should, to the extent possible, hold

meetings inside Somalia to allow the transitional federal institutions to devote more time to the implementation of the road map;

(e) Monitoring and compliance: the implementation of the road map shall be monitored on a continuous basis and appropriate measures taken to ensure compliance with the benchmarks and timelines in accordance with the Kampala Accord.

6. Within 14 days, a Technical Committee, composed of the transitional federal institutions, regional entities, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, and regional organizations including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, the African Union, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the League of Arab States, the European Union and the United Nations, shall be formed to facilitate cooperation and collaboration among the Somali parties and with its international partners to implement the road map. The Committee shall work from Mogadishu.

7. Finally, the meeting expressed gratitude to AMISOM and troop-contributing countries, namely, Uganda and Burundi, and Somali forces for the sacrifices they continue to make to advance the cause of peace and stability in Somalia.

Signed on this day, 6 September 2011, in Mogadishu, Somalia

H.E Abdiweli Mohamed Ali,
Prime Minister of the TFG.

Abdi Farah Sa[illegible],
Minister of Education, Puntland State of Somalia

Mohamed Ali-Nur Hegi,
Minister of Int. Cooperation, Galmudug

Khalif Abdulkadir Moalin Noor
Head of the Delegation, ASWJ

Augustine P. Mahiga,
SRSG

Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi,
DSRCC

Mohamed Said Omar,
Senior Governance & Policy Advisor
IGAD

Mohamed Idris,
Head of League of Arab States Mission
in Somalia

Appendix

Somalia End of Transition Road Map

Benchmark 1: Security – *(a) Improved Security in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) An inclusive JSC through bi-monthly meetings in Mogadishu to address key security issues and challenges facing Somalia; (b) National Security and Stabilization Plan (NSSP) approved and being implemented by 19 October 2011. Over the next 12 months implement the following priority areas: (I) Establishment of basic administrative structures and extending maintenance of law and order in areas which have recently come under TFG control and ensure that Somali regional forces being included within NSSP remit; (II) Enhanced TFG integration and coordination role in co-opting local militia under its authority; (III) Regional/District Security Committees for coordinating/facilitating civilian security, law and order established; (IV) Disengaging fighters / Defectors / Surrendees program being implemented; (V) Prevention of the presence of children in the armed forces; (VI) Efforts being made on protection of civilians from all armed violence, adherence to International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law	–JSC, Ministers: Defense, Interior and National Security, Finance, Planning and Heads of National Security Agencies, Observer status -Puntland State of Somalia, Galmudug State of Somalia, ASWJ) –TFP: Speaker and Parliamentary Committee on Security; JSC, regional entities including ASWJ –Heads of National Security Agencies; –UN, AU, IGAD and key member states involved in supporting Security Sector Development	—*JSC Secretariat; Meeting Schedule; Office Space;* —*Secretariat Staff;* —*Budget;* —*Funding;* —*Workplan* –*Senior Security Experts* —*Trainings*	** *(2 day) JSC structured meetings expanded to include regional entities and ASWJ* ***Disseminate National Security Stabilization Plan with regional entities before adoption;* ****Basic administrative structures;* ****Inclusion of Somali regional forces within NSSP remit;* ****Integration and coordination of local militia* ****District and Security Committees;* ****Defector programs;*

Benchmark 1: Security – *(b) Effective maritime security and counter piracy policy and strategy*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Effective maritime security and counter piracy policy and legislation in conjunction with regional entities including Puntland State of Somalia and Somaliland established by 20 January 2012, to prevent piracy and protect Somalia natural resources. In particular: *(I)* EEZ declared by 19 December 2011; *(II)* Appoint a Counter Piracy Coordinator under a designated Minister by 19 December 2011; *(III)* Establish Somali Maritime Police Force/Coastguard(s)/Coastal monitoring capability, coordinated with land police force(s); *(IV)* Agreed maritime security strategy with the regions and other governments including through Kampala Process by March 2012 *(V)* Develop programmes for anti-piracy community engagement and linked coastal economic projects by 20 December 2011 and begin implementation by 20 March 2012 *(VI)* Build capacity to prosecute, try and imprison piracy and maritime law case by 18 May 2012; *(VII)* Enact Anti-Piracy Legislation by 18 May 2012	--Min of Fisheries, Min of Transport and Ports, Min of Interior and National Security, Somali Mission to UN, AU, IGAD, regional entities including ASWJ --Prime Minister special envoy for EEZ issues	--*Kampala Process, Secure funding, Resources Mobilization* --*Contact Group on Piracy of the Coast of Somalia*	*implementation;* --*Counter Maritime Piracy Legislation, agreement between TFG and other administrations*

Benchmark 2: Constitution - *(a) the Draft Constitution finalized for adoption*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) TFG policy decision on how to proceed with the constitutional process by 19 September 2011; (b) Committee of Somali Experts (maximum 9 persons including up to 4 women) appointed by 19 September 2011 to support the preparation of Draft Constitution; (c) Begin Consultations with Stakeholders on Federalism and Decentralized System of Administration and other contentious issues by 19 October 2011; *(d)* Stakeholders Consultative Meetings to discuss Federalism and Decentralized System of Administration and resolution of other contentious issues by 19 November 2011; (e) Transitional Federal Charter amended by 19 December 2011 to enable the constitutional process to proceed; (f) Stakeholders Report on Federalism and Decentralized System of Administration and resolution of contentious issues compiled by 30 December 2011; (g) Draft Constitution published by 20 January 2012; and Stakeholders Consultative Meetings held by 20 March 2012 to validate Draft Constitution; Final Draft Constitution published by 18 May 2012;	--Prime Minister, Minister for Constitution, --Prime Minister and Minister for Constitution; Speaker, in consultation with all Stakeholders --IFCC, and Committee of Experts, --Technical Committee, Committee of Experts, SRSG --Speaker, Minister for Constitution, and PCC, IFCC, Committee of Experts --IFCC, Committee of Experts, --As above	*--IFCC and Committee of Somali Expert Secretariat* *--External Experts and Support Staff; Funding, International Experts, Trainings, Capacity Building* *--Budget and Work plan* *--Focus Group Discussions* *--Draft Amendments* *--Civic Education* *--Public Information* *--Capacity Building* *--Publication and Dissemination of Report*	***Progress report* ***Committee of Expert appointed* ***Stakeholders Report and Resolutions* ***Thematic and Stakeholders Consultation Meetings,* ***Charter Amended* ***Stakeholders Consultation Report* ***Draft Constitution* ***Stakeholder Meeting* ***Final Draft Constitution*

Benchmark 2: Constitution - *(b) the Draft Constitution adopted*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Appoint Joint Committee (TFG, TFP, Regional Administrations, Experts, CSO representatives – Maximum 15 persons including 5 women) by 19 September 2011, to undertake preparation for adoption of the Draft Constitution; (b) Preparatory Plan and Report for provisional adoption of the Draft Constitution completed by 15 November 2011; (c) High Level Consultative Meeting to discuss the process for federating Somalia through development of the State Governments, Regional and District Administrations held by 19 October 2011 the Meeting should also agree on Preparatory Plan for provisional adoption of the Draft Constitution; (d) Begin the preparation for provisional adoption of the Draft Constitution by 20 January 2012; (e) Preparation for provisional adoption of the Draft Constitution completed by 19 April 2012; (f) Begin provisional adoption process for the Draft Constitution by 20 April 2012; Draft Constitution to be adopted by 1 July 2012; (g) Constitutional Referendum held in accordance with the provisions of the New Constitution	—President, Speaker, Prime Minister in consultation with all Stakeholders —Joint Committee —President, Prime Minister, Speaker, Regional Administrations, Technical Committee CSO, IFCC,SRSG —Speaker, Minister for Constitution, Joint Committee, PCC, , Technical Committee —Joint Committee, Technical Committee, IFCC –Modalities for adoption –Reformed Parliament, Technical Committee, IMG,	—*ToR for Joint Committee, Budget, Work plan, International Experts, Secretariat, Resource Mobilization, Training* —*Dissemination* —*Stakeholders Meeting Budget and Planning Process* —*Joint Report, Stakeholders Agreement, Draft Amendment,* –*Dates and sequencing of elections* —*Preparatory Plan* –*Election Plan and Oversight Mechanisms*	***Joint Committee appointed* ***Report of the Joint Committee* ***Stakeholders Meeting facilitated by SRSG held* ***Stakeholders agreement on reform and the modalities for adoption of draft constitution* ***Reformed Parliament* ***Preparation Plan* ***Draft Constitution Adopted and Elections*

Benchmark 2: Constitution : *(c) Parliamentary Reform*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Progress Report on Reform of Parliament by Parliamentary Committee on Reform by 19 September 2011; the Committee to Recommend immediate reforms aimed at making TFP effective to implement the Roadmap;	--Speaker, TFP Reform Committee;	---*Appointment Letter, Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee, Parliamentary Experts, Workshop Work plan, and Budget*	*** *Recommendations for Reforms*
(b) Reform of TFP to begin by 19 September 2011 and completed by 19 November 2011;	---Speaker and TFP Reform Committee		*** *Reforms to Implement the Roadmap*
(c) Appoint Joint Committee (TFG, TFP, Regional Administrations, Civil Society and Experts - not more than 15 persons including 5 women) by 19 September 2011 to consult and prepare recommendations and modalities for establishing a new Federal Parliament under a new Federal Constitution. The size and criteria of the new Parliament shall be determined by the Constituent Assembly. All Federal States must be based on the Transitional Federal Charter. The Government shall encourage the formation of new Federal States based on the TFC	----TFG, TFP, Regional Administrations and Technical Committee,	---*Technical Committee*	***Joint Committee Appointed
(d) Report of the Joint Committee on establishment of a new Federal Parliament under new Federal Constitution ready by 19 November 2011.	--Joint Committee,		***Report of the Joint Committee
(e) Stakeholders Consultative Meeting held by 19 November 2011 to agree on establishment of a new Federal Parliament under new Federal Constitution;	---Joint Committee, TFG, TFP, Regional Administrations and Technical Committee, AU, IGAD		***Stakeholders Meeting
(f) Stakeholders Agreement on establishment of new Federal Parliament under new Federal Constitution included in the Draft Constitution by 20 January 2012;	---SRSG		***Stakeholders Agreement and Report included in Draft Constitution

Benchmark 2: Constitution *(d) Elections and Constitutional Referendum*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Enact legislative framework for the Interim Electoral Commission (b) Appoint Competent Members of an Interim Independent Electoral Commission (maximum 9 persons and up to 4 women) by 19 September 2011; to undertake preparations for elections (c) Prepare guidelines for elections and/or selection of Members of Parliament, State and Regional, and District/Local Administrations, the nomination of candidates, the registration of citizens as voters, the conduct of elections and referendum, the regulation and supervision of elections by 20 December 2011 (d) Enact legislation on Elections including the formation and registration of Political Parties by 30 December 2011; (e) Prepare plans for Elections and/or Selection/Nomination for Members of Parliament, District/Local Administrations, Registration of Political Parties, Registration of Voters, Voter Education, Civic Education by 20 January 2012; preparations plan to be ready by 20 May 2012; (f) Begin the Selection/Nomination for Members of Federal Parliament, District/Local Administrations by 20 May 2012; and complete the process by 20 June 2012; (g) Undertake Elections (direct or indirect) for Members of Parliament, and District/Local Administrations, and President by 20 August 2012	—Speaker, TFP, Minister for Constitution –President, Speaker, Prime Minister in consultation with all Stakeholders —Interim Independent Electoral Commission; —Speaker, Prime Minister, TFP, —Interim Independent Electoral Commission; Minister for Interior and National Security; and UN, AU, IGAD —As above —Interim Independent Electoral Commission, Puntland State of Somali, UN, AU, IGAD	—*Appoi*ment Letter, Members of the Commission; Committees, Workshop Work plan, and Budget —	*** *Members of Interim Independent Electoral Commission appointed* ***Guidelines Prepared* ***Legislation on Elections and Political Parties* ***Elections Plans and Political Parties Formed* ***Selection and Nomination for MPs* ***Elections (direct or indirect)*

Benchmark 3: *Political Outreach and Reconciliation*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Convene High Level Committee Meeting by 19 September 2011 to implement reconciliation with regional entities including ASWJ based on previous agreements and thereafter initiate dialogues and engagement with other groups in Somalia (regional entities should be based on TFC)	–President, Speaker, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, regional entities including ASWJ	–*High Level Meeting in Somalia* –*Reconciliation Council, Secretariat, Office, Staff, Budget, Resource Mobilization, Work Plan*	"*High Level Committee meeting convened in Somalia–Reconciliation Council*
(b) TFG in consultation with regional entities including ASWJ to prepare National Reconciliation Plan including resolving inter-clan disputes, inclusive outreach strategy to be approved by parliament by 1 October 2011.	—TFG, TFP,		"*Report on District Peace and Security Committees established*– *Report number of regions and local administration visited, modalities for working with local administrations, basic services*
(c) Reform, Revitalize National Reconciliation Commission by 1 October 2011	–TFG, TFP, Minister for Constitution and Reconciliation, Minister for Interior and National Security, regional entities including ASWJ –AS above-	–*District Peace and Security Committees, -Budget and Work plan, Coordination Mechanisms* -*Regions and local administrations to visit, basic social service to population* –*Resource Mobilization*	"*Modalities for working with local administrations being implemented*
(d) Support regional entities including ASWJ to coordinate and support local level reconciliation and peace building initiatives across the country by 19 November 2011;			
(e) Subject to security visit all regions under the TFG and allied regional entities by 19 November 2011; and/or establish the modalities for supporting and working/establishing local administrations;	–President, Prime Minister, Speaker		
(f) Activate the existing Peace Committees within regional entities and facilitate the establishment of new ones by 19 November or 2011 to facilitate local/grass roots reconciliation and peace building initiatives;			

Benchmark 4: Good Governance: *(a)Transparency and Accountability*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Enhance mechanisms for greater coordination and information sharing between Somali and international development and humanitarian agencies by 19 September 2011;	--Minister for Planning, Interior and National Security, Technical Committee	--Meeting with Aid Agencies to review coordination mechanism	**Report on coordination and information sharing;
(b) Enact legislation and implement measures by 19 October 2011 to fight corruption and abuse of public offices at all levels of government including (local and regional);	---Prime Minister, President TFP, TC	--Team to undertake Analysis of all Receipts and Expenditures for all TFG Revenues and Income;	**Enhance coordination mechanisms;
(c) Appoint Competent Members of an Interim Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (maximum 9 persons including 4 women) by 19 November 2011;	-Interim Anti-Corruption and Commission, Technical Committee, Minister for Justice	--Experts, Field Study – Audit Exercise, Capacity Building	***Interim ACC Members
(d) Appoint a Competent Task Force by 19 December 2011 to prepare report of all TFG revenues, receipts and expenditures, airport taxes, landing fees, parking fees, over flight fees, port fees and charges including wharfage charges and fees, telecommunications and including from donors, etc;	--Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Planning, Trade		****Measures and Impact on Corruption Report;
	---Minister for Finance, Auditor General, Accountant General		**Task Force Appointed
	---Prime Minister, Minister for Planning,		*** Task Force Report
			***Fiscal Budget passed by Parliament
			****Measures and Impact

Benchmark 4: Good Governance *(b)Public Finance Management*			
Key Tasks and Timeline	**Responsibility**	**Resources**	**Compliance**
(a) Ensure that all government revenues are collected using official government documents and recorded according to the law and deposited to the Consolidated Fund at the Central Bank by 19 December 2011 (b) Comprehensive Report on all TFG Revenues and Expenditure completed by 20 January 2012; (c) Review and update existing Civil Service Code/Law by 20 January 2012; (d) Formulate and approve a National Fiscal Budget for the year 2011/2012 by 31 December 2011; (e) Initiate the process to develop a National Development and Recovery Strategy by 20 February 2012	--Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Planning, Trade , Interior --Minister for Finance, Auditor General, Accountant General --Prime Minister, Minister for Planning, —Ministry of Finance National Civil Service Commission, Ministry of Labour, —Minister for Finance	*--Meeting with Aid Agencies to review coordination mechanism* *--Team to undertake Analysis of all Receipts and Expenditures for all TFG Revenues and Income;* *--Experts, Field Study – Audit Exercise, Capacity Building*	******Fiscal Budget passed by Parliament* ****Measures and Impact Report on Appointment and Discipline of Public Servants*

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Letter dated 7 December 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached letter dated 2 December 2011 from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Claudio Bisogniero, transmitting a report on the International Security Assistance Force operations in Afghanistan covering the period from 1 August to 31 October 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 2 December 2011 from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 2011 (2011), I attach a report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan covering the period from August 2011 to October 2011 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Claudio **Bisogniero**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the Security Council on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force

Introduction

1. The present report, pursuant to the request under Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 2011 (2011), informs the United Nations on the progress of the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), covering the period from 1 August to 31 October 2011. As at 18 October 2011, total ISAF strength stood at 130,638 personnel provided by all 28 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nations and 21 non-NATO nations. In September 2011, El Salvador became the forty-ninth troop-contributing nation and operational partner to ISAF. NATO and ISAF invite additional United Nations Member States to support this United Nations-mandated mission by providing mentors and trainers for the Afghan National Security Forces and to increase their support for the civilian sectors of governance and development.

2. Throughout the reporting period, ISAF continued to assist the Government of Afghanistan in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. From 1 August 2011 to 31 October 2011, ISAF suffered 1,968 casualties, including 152 killed in action, 1,803 wounded in action and 13 non-battle-related deaths.

3. During the reporting period, the number of partnered and Afghan-led operations continued to increase, with the Afghan National Security Forces becoming increasingly capable of responding to complex and high-profile attacks. The security incidents during the quarter were marked by the assassination of the Chairman of the High Peace Council, Professor Rabbani, on 20 September. Despite progress in the south and south-west, security incidents in the east have increased significantly this year, with this quarter being no exception. This quarter also saw a huge increase in improvised explosive device activity compared with last year, but a significant decrease in complex and coordinated attacks compared with the same period in 2010. Joint ISAF-Afghan forces have continued to maintain military pressure through partnered operations, and the insurgency has avoided decisive engagement in order to preserve their forces.

4. Additional noteworthy events for the reporting period are as follows:

(a) During this quarter, security in the seven tranche 1 areas that began transition has been maintained in large part owing to the continued expansion and increasing effectiveness of the Afghan National Security Forces. However, challenges do remain, and much will depend on the ability of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver better governance to shore up security gains;

(b) On 25 August, President Hamid Karzai publicly backed the Independent Election Commission's decision to replace nine sitting parliamentarians. The parliamentary election process was brought to a close this quarter, allowing the Wolesi Jirga to begin executing its responsibilities;

(c) On 6 September, the NATO Senior Civilian Representative and the ISAF Commander hosted a round table on Afghanistan's economy, which was attended by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the World Bank, the European Union, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland and Germany. The meeting was focused mainly on the challenges facing the domestic economy in light of the drawdown of ISAF through 2014;

(d) On 4 October, President Karzai and the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, signed an agreement on strategic partnership between both countries. The agreement covers trade, the economy, energy, education and security. India also agreed to assist in the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces;

(e) On 10 October, the United Nations released a report on the mistreatment of detainees in a number of facilities of the National Directorate of Security and the Afghan National Police across Afghanistan. ISAF took immediate action and suspended transfers of detainees to the facilities identified in the UNAMA report. It also developed an improved framework for inspection, certification, training of interrogators and long-term monitoring, which is being implemented at all the facilities associated with the mistreatment of detainees. ISAF remains committed to eliminating human rights violations in detainee operations and will continue to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA on this issue;

(f) On 19 October, the Minister for Finance and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan co-hosted the first meeting of the Joint Coordination Monitoring Board since November 2010. The meeting, inter alia, restored the Kabul Process. This outcome is expected to contribute to the Bonn Conference on 5 December 2011;

(g) On 29 October, a Joint Afghan-NATO *Inteqal* Board agreed on the areas that should start the *inteqal* process as part of the second tranche, and on 27 November, President Karzai publicly announced those areas. Once implementation of the second tranche begins, approximately half of Afghanistan's population will be living in transitioning areas. The Government of Afghanistan and ISAF are preparing for implementation to begin in December 2011.

Security situation

5. The inability of the insurgency to execute the guidance of the Taliban senior leadership to increase operations during May, June and July and the failure by the insurgents to resume activity following the end of Ramadan support the view that the 2011 insurgent fighting season was effectively suppressed throughout many parts of the country. High-profile attacks continued to increase nationwide and remain focused at discrediting the ability of the Government of Afghanistan and the Afghan National Security Forces to provide security. The latter has demonstrated an increasing ability to respond to such security incidents, which is a positive sign for the future security of the country. Areas in transition have remained largely unchallenged by insurgent operations. Improvised explosive devices remain a favourite weapon of the insurgency to avoid direct engagement with and limit the freedom of movement of ISAF.

6. Reintegration efforts continued throughout the reporting period with a focus on expanding reintegration, especially in the south and south-west of Afghanistan, in an attempt to capitalize on a growing trend of dissatisfaction among lower-level insurgents. In early September, immediately following Ramadan, a Kandahar Reintegration Conference was held with the strong support of ISAF in Kandahar

City. The Conference was aimed at initiating a reintegration surge in southern Afghanistan by bringing provincial and national civil-military stakeholders together to better synchronize security, reintegration and community recovery efforts. As the needed structures are now in place, including the financial tools at the provincial level, the governors were encouraged to be proactive in energizing outreach initiatives in accordance with their responsibilities.

7. On 20 September, the Chairman of the High Peace Council, Professor Rabbani, was assassinated while welcoming an alleged former insurgent to negotiations at his home. Despite the significant impact on the political scene, the assassination is not likely to have a large impact on reintegration results, as most of the work is accomplished at the provincial, district and local levels. This tragic event has also affected the reconciliation process. Despite these events, donor countries have renewed their commitment to support the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme, which is crucial for peaceful transition in Afghanistan. As of the end of October 2011, the Programme had formally reintegrated more than 2,700 insurgents, up from around 400 at the end of July.

8. Regionally, the security situation is as follows:

(a) *Regional Command South-west*. Afghan National Security Forces/ISAF forces are extending the security bubble into the province's northern and southern districts. Central and northern Helmand and the Sangin and Kajaki districts have experienced increased freedom of movement. Operations in southern Helmand are disrupting the flow of insurgent fighters and supplies from Pakistan. The capability of the Afghan Uniformed Police continues to improve, and many units are able to operate without ISAF support. Overall incidents of violence continue a downward trend and are lower than in the same period of the previous year;

(b) *Regional Command South*. Despite attempts by the insurgency to disrupt Government of Afghanistan gains in Regional Command South, and specifically the Kandahar area, efforts to improve governance and security have shown progress. Afghan Taliban will maintain the south as a focus area, but a decreasing trend in violence during the reporting period has demonstrated their inability to rebound to levels previously seen in the area over their critical fighting season. ISAF operations have continued to increase pressure upon the financial and logistical networks of the insurgents, further limiting their capabilities. As a result, it is expected that focused intimidation and assassinations will continue to grow in prominence since they require fewer resources;

(c) *Regional Command East*. Violence has persisted at higher levels than anticipated and has spread across the Regional Command owing to the geographical diversity of the enemy. Supplies and fighters originating in Pakistan and transported across the border enabled the insurgency in the region to maintain its operational capability and high operational tempo. Operations of ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces, coupled with Afghan local security initiatives, are attempting to interdict these supply routes and increasingly disrupt insurgent operations in the region;

(d) *Regional Command North*. While some threats exist, Regional Command North experiences relatively low levels of attack and is a largely secure environment in comparison with the rest of Afghanistan. Local insurgents are capable of conducting only occasional improvised explosive device attacks, harassing actions

and attempts at high-profile attacks, which are often aimed at minimizing Tajik influence in the north;

(e) *Regional Command West*. A continuation of successful Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF operations, increased effective targeting of insurgents and local populace support are the main reasons for the decrease in security incidents compared with same time frame last year. As a result, insurgents appear to be losing their freedom of both movement and action, and are joining the reintegration programme in increasing numbers;

(f) *Regional Command Capital*. Fewer security incidents throughout Kabul City and Province were seen during the past quarter compared with the same time frame last year. This is likely as a result of operations carried out from May through August and successful cache-finding operations. Of note were a number of high-profile attacks within Kabul Province, where the Afghan National Security Forces demonstrated a very capable response. During this period, insurgent attacks were focused primarily on attempts to challenge the perceptions of improved security under Afghan National Security Forces responsibility.

Afghan National Security Forces

9. The Afghan National Security Forces continue to make progress in both size and capacity as they prepare to assume the security lead and complete the transition process in 2014. The October 2011 growth goal of 305,600 has been met, and the Afghan National Security Forces remains on track to reach the October 2012 growth target of 352,000. With the support and advice of ISAF, the Afghan National Security Forces units are becoming increasingly capable in general and are improving their ability to conduct autonomous operations. Efforts are being made to establish proficient headquarters at the national and regional levels and to improve planning and coordination capacities. Representation of women is also growing, with currently around 1,500 of them serving in different positions across the Afghan National Security Forces, including five female pilots in the Afghan Air Force.

10. The Afghan National Security Forces is progressively assuming more responsibility for training their own forces. The establishment of training institutions, which is close to completion, fosters the progressive professionalization of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police within five focus areas: training Afghan trainers and instructors; accelerating leader development; building literacy and vocational skills; inculcating an ethos of stewardship; and developing enduring institutions, systems and enablers. Trainers and advisers from the international community are still needed to accelerate the professionalization of the Afghan National Security Forces and to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.

Afghan National Army

11. The Afghan National Army has grown to just over 173,000 soldiers and has entered the last fielding phase, the goal of which is to reinforce the sustainability of a more balanced professional force able to assume the security lead. To this end, Combat Support and Combat Service Support units, as well as Corps and Brigade troops, are being formed and trained. A more autonomous logistics branch continues to be developed, including an Afghan National Army health system with emphasis on management of medical quality. Furthermore, efforts are being made to finalize the establishment of a complete training organization allowing the Afghan National

Army to professionalize the force by themselves. An Afghan National Army Training Command was established to this end, and 12 branch schools permanently work at full capacity with more than 20,000 trainees. The overall training level for the army is increasing slowly but steadily.

12. Afghan National Army recruiting remains strong and ethnically balanced. Rates of retention have exceeded objectives but are still challenged by high attrition rates that generate additional recruitment and training costs. To address this persistent issue, a comprehensive plan, including mid- and long-term solutions, has been developed in partnership with Afghan leaders.

13. For operational Afghan National Army units in the field, there are several areas which must see improvement, namely, leadership skills, high attrition, staff planning, tactical coordination, and logistics.

Afghan Air Force

14. The development of the Afghan Air Force is under way, and in addition to personnel recruitment and professionalization highlighted in previous reports, infrastructure build up has made significant progress. Twenty-two new facilities have been delivered in support of a self-sustaining force. Important investments are foreseen to improve Afghan Air Force training institutions and infrastructure, which are critical conditions for sound development and self-sustainability. Fifty-nine aircraft are in service within the Afghan Air Force, including 42 helicopters. This number will increase to 145 aircraft once the Air Force is fully fielded in 2016. The strength of the Afghan Air Force has reached 4,900 personnel. International support remains critical for development and training of the Afghan Air Force.

Afghan National Police

15. The current strength of the Afghan National Police is slightly higher than 139,000, with approximately 10,000 police officers assigned to various training programmes. Greater emphasis is being put on professionalizing the Force. The Afghan National Police Basic Course (now named the Initial Police Training Course) has been extended from six weeks to eight in duration. All new recruits will undergo the training, whether they enter as patrol officers, non-commissioned officers or officers.

16. For the first time since the establishment of the Force in 2006, a new Afghan National Civil Order Police brigade was formed. Furthermore, there have been improvements with the special units of the General Directorate of Police. This force most notably took on a significant role in successfully disrupting recent attacks in Kabul City.

Institutional capacity

17. The security ministries, with the assistance of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, are continuously working to develop their capability to generate and sustain the Afghan National Security Forces.

18. The Ministry of Defence and the General Staff are assessed as requiring some coalition assistance to accomplish their mission. Progress has been made in strategic communications, defence budgeting, readiness reporting and the provision of

logistics support. Furthermore, during the reporting period, the Ministry of Defence improved its capability, as demonstrated by the management of the implementation of transition for tranche 1.

19. The Ministry of the Interior is currently assessed as requiring coalition assistance and is expected to progress to requiring only some assistance by the end of 2012. Four of eight regional logistics centres and one provincial supply point have been built and are currently functioning, although the ability to fill civilian positions is hampered by the lack of civil service pay and grade reform.

Private security companies/Afghan Public Protection Force

20. During the reporting period, the six-month assessment of progress was completed, which concluded that the State-owned enterprise was not sufficiently developed, nor was the Afghan Public Protection Force on track to make the timelines to meet the requirements of the bridging strategy and Presidential Decree. As a result, the ISAF Commander and the United States Ambassador approved the development of a Joint Programme Executive Office, an essential precursor to the development of the State-owned enterprise within the Ministry of the Interior. The Joint Programme Executive Office will assist the Government of Afghanistan in the transition of security services from private security companies to the Afghan Public Protection Force and will assist the latter in building the necessary capacity to provide uninterrupted security services throughout Afghanistan. A great deal of planning activity is being undertaken to establish the Joint Programme Executive Office to be at initial operating capability by 1 December 2011 with full operating capability by 1 March 2012. Afghanistan Security Forces Funding has been approved by the United States State Department and was to have been ratified by Congress in mid-November. The President of Afghanistan was to have been briefed on the concept of the Joint Programme Executive Office and progress to date on the bridging strategy in late November.

Afghan Local Police

21. The Ministry of the Interior-led Afghan Local Police programme continues to expand. As at 27 October 2011, 53 out of 99 Afghan Local Police districts had been validated as operational by the Government of Afghanistan. The total number of personnel is close to 8,500, further improving the security situation as well as public perception of the Afghan Local Police. The programme has proven to be a significant threat to the insurgency in key areas throughout Afghanistan. In response, insurgents have engaged in intimidation campaigns and targeted assassinations against members of the Afghan Local Police and their families. These attacks have failed to intimidate local communities, with the Afghan Local Police effectively protecting their villages against insurgent attacks.

Civilian casualties

22. The second quarterly ISAF conference on civilian casualties was held on 12 October. Civilian casualties, regardless of who causes them, continue to be of significant concern to ISAF and the Government of Afghanistan. Minimizing the number and scale of such incidents remains of critical importance for ISAF. Any incident of civilian casualty is one too many. Moreover, the need to effectively manage the consequences of such incidents when they do occur is considered as

vitally important, and there are a number of procedures in place to address the issues resulting from civilian casualties as quickly and effectively as possible. Reporting for this quarter indicates that the insurgents are responsible for causing approximately 85 per cent of all civilian combat-related deaths and an even higher percentage of overall civilian casualty-related incidents. However, insurgents can still exploit and manipulate civilian casualty events to their advantage, since ISAF is perceived to be accountable by the Afghan population for all incidents in which casualties occur. The overall number of civilian casualties is down during the reporting period. The number of civilian casualties caused by ISAF dropped by 27 per cent when compared with the previous reporting period, while those caused by insurgents decreased by 20 per cent. ISAF efforts to reduce civilian casualties and the disregard of the insurgents for the Afghan population with their indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices remain key messages.

Counter-narcotics

23. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2011 Afghanistan Opium Survey showed that poppy cultivation had increased 7 per cent countrywide from 2010 to approximately 131,000 hectares, with 95 per cent of total cultivation taking place in nine provinces in the southern and western regions. This increase is predominantly in areas with a lack of security, governance and economic development where farmers were attracted to the high opium prices as a result of previous shortages of opium brought on by the 2010 poppy blight.

24. Within the limits of its mandate, NATO/ISAF continued to target the narco-trade where there has been a clear connection with the insurgency. Partnered Afghan and ISAF operations provided access to development and law enforcement efforts, which have been aimed at providing viable and sustainable alternatives to illicit farming. Observable trends (such as the situation in central Helmand) show that within the ISAF-generated "security bubbles", where the presence of the Afghan Government was strong, poppy cultivation ceased almost entirely. Helmand Province, which is the largest producer of opiates, registered a third successive year in poppy reduction, with dramatic decreases in the Marjeh district, the area of focus for ISAF operations. The extensive engagement of ISAF in Helmand therefore shows that sustainable changes to the poppy economy can be achieved with coordinated and parallel improvements in security, governance and rural development.

25. ISAF will continue to work closely with other international community actors to support the Government of Afghanistan in its comprehensive national drug control strategy while continuing to refine the understanding of the linkages between the narcotics trade and the insurgency, as well as the confluence between the narco-trade and corruption. Sustainable counter-narcotics gains in Afghanistan are dependent on a holistic approach and long-term commitment.

Governance

26. Governance capacity in Afghanistan experienced marginal improvements over the past quarter that included continued implementation of the transition process, renewed progress to resolve the Kabul Bank crisis, and some resolution within the Parliament over past election results. However, further development of governance is needed to underpin the transition process, and international civilian support must be provided to enable future growth, as follows:

(a) The Afghan Government continued to work jointly with NATO on the implementation of tranche 1 areas of transition as well as the planning for tranche 2. In all respects, this process has been systematic and deliberate and has been increasingly supported by strong interaction among multiple Afghan ministries. Thus far, the process of transition remains sound, and initial progress has been positive. As expected, insurgents have attempted to destabilize the transition process, but the Afghan Government has been resilient;

(b) The Afghan Government has made substantial progress in addressing the Kabul Bank crisis during the reporting period. The major hurdles impeding a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme were removed, including parliamentary approval of the bill on the recapitalization of the Central Bank. A new IMF programme is expected to be put in place during the next quarter. Some structural reforms have been established and should assist in helping to prevent a similar crisis in the future. This progress has restored donor confidence in the Kabul Process;

(c) The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board held its first meeting in almost a year, resulting in the endorsement of seven additional national priority programmes. At least six more such programmes are expected to be endorsed during the next quarter, marking a significant advancement in the Kabul Process;

(d) During the past quarter, the Wolesi Jirga finally began executing some of its responsibilities in over a year since its members were elected by the Afghan people. Regarding the election process, the Independent Election Commission annulled the membership of nine deputies (not the 62 as heralded in the previous quarter) and swore in nine new members of Parliament. The office of the NATO Senior Civilian Representative is actively working with ISAF to remain engaged with Parliament; this is a critical period, and it is essential that engagement be conducted with the necessary degree of political sensitivity and respect for Afghan sovereignty. Close cooperation with the wider international community, in particular UNAMA, will be vital in this endeavour.

27. On the diplomatic front, President Karzai and the Afghan Government participated in several regional conferences and increased the level of international engagement. During the quarter, Afghanistan established its first strategic bilateral partnership through a signed agreement with India. Negotiations continued between the United States and Afghanistan towards a similar partnership. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan during the reporting period were strained owing to issues of cross-border shelling.

28. During the reporting period, a NATO Building Integrity programme team visited Kabul (9-15 September) and had meetings with Minister of Defence Wardak, Dr. Ghani (Special Adviser to the President) and a number of senior officers from the Ministries of Defence and the Interior. The team discussed the Building Integrity peer review reports (based on Building Integrity self-assessments conducted by both Ministries) with senior ministry staff to gauge Afghan reaction to the reports and identify appropriate courses of action. In meetings with the World Bank, European Police Office, embassies based in Kabul, UNAMA and the United Nations Development Programme, the team also increased awareness of the NATO Building Integrity programme among stakeholders and encouraged international community organizations and stakeholder countries to support the Building Integrity programme. The visiting team was well received by the Afghans, who have taken a

series of measures to support the programme. The Building Integrity programme is a valuable long-term element of the NATO Enduring Partnership with Afghanistan.

29. Although some progress has been made by the Government of Afghanistan in addressing corruption within official structures, the situation in Afghanistan remains highly challenging. The Government of Afghanistan addressed some high-profile cases, such as one involving the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation being forwarded to the High Office for Oversight of Anti-Corruption and the 17 Kabul Bank-related cases being forwarded to the Attorney General's Office. Recent achievements in counter-corruption efforts have been encouraging in the areas where the international community has an important role. The perception of the Afghan population of corruption within the Government of Afghanistan and its impact on their daily life is gradually changing. ISAF efforts are focused on increasing the political will of Afghan leaders to address the problem by demonstrating that both the country and their interests will benefit from their own efforts. Through its anti-corruption dedicated structure, task force *Shafafiyat* (transparency), the working relationship between ISAF and Afghan officials improved significantly, as senior Afghan leaders now better understand and want to participate in ISAF anti-corruption initiatives, especially within the Security Ministries and the Judiciary. Gaining the sponsorship of President Karzai, Afghan leaders have established on ISAF initiative high-level forums with the international community to jointly address the issue of official corruption.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams evolution

30. During the reporting period, the NATO Senior Civilian Representative suggested to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams contributing nations that they submit draft evolution plans by mid-November 2011. The evolution plans will ideally explain how the Provincial Reconstruction Teams concept will shift from direct delivery to building capacity; what the anticipated end-state of the evolution of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams will be as the province completes the transition process; what critical functions the Provincial Reconstruction Teams are currently providing; and which Afghan entities will assume those functions after the Provincial Reconstruction Teams have been phased out.

Development

31. During the reporting period, the combined efforts of ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces created a favourable context to transition in several areas. The improved security situation across the country allowed a number of development projects to be implemented. There were notable improvements in strategic infrastructures as well as in Afghan welfare owing to the improved security conditions achieved by ISAF and the Afghan National Security Forces. Noteworthy points from the reporting period include:

(a) The road network has continued to make progress. The rehabilitation works at Salang Tunnel are projected to be completed before winter. However, the East-West corridor and the last segment of road in the Helmand River upper valley from the Kajaki dam to the Ring Road are still waiting for funding;

(b) In August 2011, the tender for the first phase of construction of the Kamal Khan dam on the Helmand River was awarded. As the dam will have an impact on the flow of water from the Helmand River into Iran, transnational water

agreements to facilitate its implementation as well as potential international investments in other dam constructions in Afghanistan will be required;

(c) The development of Afghanistan's rail system is critical to the country's economic expansion, particularly in the mining sector. An operations and maintenance contract with the Uzbek Railway Company was signed, making the rail line from Mazar-e-Sharif to Hairatan ready for operation. In addition, an ISAF-enabled Rail Advisory Team was established in October 2011 to work closely with the Government of Afghanistan, donors and the mining industry in supporting the plans of the Government for railway development and its links into the wider regional railway networks;

(d) Work is in progress for the first phase of the Kabul International Airport transition plan, which will take into account training for Afghan staff working in aeronautical-specific functions. This plan will serve as a reference basis for the plans being developed by the aviation authorities in Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. In addition, the Multilateration System, which is currently being implemented, will provide an increase in flight safety and efficiency. ISAF is working with the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, and the aviation authorities of the United States and Germany to develop the Afghan civil aviation authority in order to tighten governance in this critical sector;

(e) The Afghan Government is looking to generate increased tax revenues by introducing a value added tax on consumer goods in 2014 in order to offset declining aid funding. This will be an important step in enabling the Government of Afghanistan to leverage post-ISAF operations and maintenance costs for the Afghan National Security Forces, the fiscal gap created by operational expenditures and the impact on both human and financial capacities of the Government of Afghanistan to continue and uphold its functions.

32. Simultaneous progress in security, governance, development, reconciliation and regional cooperation, with a particular focus on Afghanistan, is necessary to support the transition to the Afghan lead for security in 2014 and enable the Afghan authorities to effectively assume responsibility for their country.

United Nations A/ES-10/540–S/2011/761

General Assembly
Security Council

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8 December 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 7 December 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you today to convey the alarm of the Palestinian people and their leadership regarding the continuous hostile, aggressive and illegal settlement campaign being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The destructive impact of Israel's illegal settlement activities on the situation on the ground, on the prospects for peace negotiations between the two sides and on the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders cannot be overstated.

In the period since our last letter to you, we have witnessed the flagrant continuation of this illegal Israeli colonization scheme, in addition to innumerable other illegal policies and practices, as the Israeli Government continues to flaunt its impunity before the eyes of the international community. The continued impotence of the international community, including the Security Council, to hold Israel accountable seems clearly to only invigorate this lawless campaign as Israeli officials, including the Prime Minister, compete to outdo one another as to who is the more fervent supporter of the settlements and the lawless, extremist settlers who have been transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to inhabit those illegal settlements and to terrorize the Palestinian civilian population as part of the occupying Power's efforts to entrench its occupation and control the land, devoid of the indigenous Palestinian people, whom it seeks to forcibly displace, or rather ethnically cleanse, via the vast network of illegal policies and practices it inflicts upon them.

In addition to the series of announcements last month regarding the plans to construct thousands of new settlement units, particularly in areas in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, the occupying Power has announced plans to construct yet another 119 units in the illegal settlement of "Shilo" north of Occupied East Jerusalem. The Israeli Defense Ministry itself approved these plans to expand this

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settlement deep into the West Bank by more than 60 per cent. Israel has also continued to forcibly confiscate Palestinian land, including 1,500 dunums (375 acres) of land in an area north-east of the Jordan Valley for the expansion of the illegal annexation Wall and of several illegal so-called "settlement outposts" nearby. Also, on 1 December, Israel began the construction of a new road intended to link the illegal Israeli settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem. Of course, this road, like so many other similar roads constructed by the occupying Power as part of the apartheid system imposed on the Palestinian people under its occupation, is intended to serve as an Israeli-only road and will also further sever the Holy City from the rest of its natural Palestinian environs.

In grave contravention of international humanitarian law, the Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and the eviction of Palestinian families, including children and elderly persons, have also continued throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Recent examples of this illegal, inhumane policy include the destruction of a manufacturing facility for stone-cutting in the area of the city of Qalqilya. That facility was the source of income for eight Palestinian families, whose livelihood has now been destroyed. Also, this past Monday, 5 December, the occupying Power destroyed a Palestinian home in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, leaving at least 15 Palestinians homeless, including a two-week-old baby. The traumatized Burqan family, to whom the home belonged, was not even allowed to retrieve furniture and personal belongings from the home before it was demolished. That same day, Israeli bulldozers destroyed another Palestinian structure in Beit Hanina. Also, violating the prohibition of the forced transfer of civilians, Israel has ordered the deportation of yet another Palestinian, Ahmad Attoun, from his native city of Jerusalem, following the revocation of his residency permit and his seizure after a year of sheltering in an International Committee of the Red Cross building in the City.

At the same time, the Israeli settlers continue their rampage of terror and violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Recent incidents include the shocking abduction, on 5 December, of a Palestinian shepherd, Salim Shehadeh, age 60, by extremist settlers from the illegal "Yitzhar" settlement in the area of Nablus. Those settlers also stole the shepherd's flock of 50 sheep. Just a few days earlier, on 3 December, several settlers from the illegal "Itamar" settlement attacked and beat another 60-year-old Palestinian man. Then, on 4 December, a group of Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian agricultural land in the northern West Bank, destroying at least 5 dunums of cultivated land. That attack was perpetrated after the arrest by Israeli police of seven female settlers for so-called "price tag" attacks against Palestinian civilians. Today, 7 December, anti-Arab graffiti was found scrawled on the walls of yet another mosque, this time in the village of Burqin near the city of Nablus, and the mosque was also targeted for arson, as burning tyres were rolled towards its entrance.

Regrettably, Israeli escalation and provocations also continue with illegal Israeli actions against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. In addition to the continuation of its unjust and illegal blockade of Gaza, which is being imposed in collective punishment of the entire population and which continues to gravely affect all aspects of life there, the occupying Power continues its military attacks targeting the area. Today, one Palestinian man was killed and at least two other civilians were wounded as a result of an Israeli air strike. Moreover,

the Chief of Staff of the Israeli military has warned that Israel is prepared to launch a major operation against the Gaza Strip.

Such flagrant threats and provocations by Israel, along with its reckless pursuit of so many illegal policies and practices, especially its rabid settlement campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are the cause of the continuous decline of the situation on the ground and are inflaming sensitivities and tensions between the sides. The failure to bring a halt to these illegal and destructive Israeli actions threatens to seriously destabilize the already fragile situation with dire consequences, including with regard to the prospects for the realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. The Palestinian leadership thus renews its calls on the international community, and particularly the Security Council, to uphold the rule of law, to uphold the relevant United Nations resolutions and to uphold their duties under the Charter of the United Nations and to act with urgency to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of these illegal policies and to abide immediately by its obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. Should Israel continue to fail to comply and continue to blatantly defy the international community, serious collective action should be undertaken to hold Israel accountable for all of its violations. We are convinced that only such direct and principled action by the international community, including the Security Council, can actually bring an end to Israel's impunity and salvage the two-State solution.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 411 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 November 2011 (A/ES-10/539-S/2011/724), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/66/597–S/2011/762

General Assembly
Security Council

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9 December 2011

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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 38
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 6 December 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward herewith the Conference Conclusions of the International Afghanistan Conference entitled "Afghanistan and the international community: from transition to the transformation decade", held in Bonn on 5 December 2011 (see annex).

On behalf of our Governments we should like to express our sincere gratitude for your personal presence in Bonn. The Conference gave a powerful message of support for Afghanistan, both during and long after security transition is scheduled to end by the end of the year 2014. The United Nations will remain a cornerstone of this continued international support.

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zahir **Tanin**
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn 5 December 2011

Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

1. We, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Community, met today in Bonn to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2001 Bonn Conference, which laid the foundation of the ongoing partnership between Afghanistan and the International Community, and to renew our mutual commitment to a stable, democratic and prosperous future for the Afghan people. We honour all those, from Afghanistan and abroad, who have lost their lives for this noble cause. Afghanistan expressed its sincere gratitude for the steadfast commitment, solidarity and the immense sacrifices of its international partners.

2. Afghanistan and the International Community expressed deep appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting this Conference. Germany is a longstanding friend of Afghanistan and, in particular over the past ten years, alongside other members of the International Community, has been a steadfast partner in Afghanistan's stabilization and development.

3. Ten years ago today at the Petersberg, Afghanistan charted a new path towards a sovereign, peaceful, prosperous and democratic future, and the International Community accepted the responsibility to help Afghanistan along that path. Together we have achieved substantial progress over these ten years, more than in any other period in Afghanistan's history. Never before have the Afghan people, and especially Afghan women, enjoyed comparable access to services, including education and health, or seen greater development of infrastructure across the country. Al Qaida has been disrupted, and Afghanistan's national security institutions are increasingly able to assume responsibility for a secure and independent Afghanistan.

4. However, our work is not yet done. Shortcomings must be addressed, achievements must be upheld. Our shared goal remains an Afghanistan that is a peaceful and promising home for all Afghans, at the centre of a secure and thriving region; an Afghanistan in which international terrorism does not again find sanctuary and that can assume its rightful place among sovereign nations.

5. In today's conference, chaired by Afghanistan, hosted by Germany and attended by 85 countries and 15 International Organisations, the International Community and Afghanistan solemnly dedicated themselves to deepening and broadening their historic partnership from Transition to the Transformation Decade of 2015-2024. Reaffirming our commitments as set out in the 2010 London Communiqué and the Kabul Process, this renewed partnership between Afghanistan and the International Community entails firm mutual commitments in the areas of governance, security, the peace process, economic and social development, and regional cooperation.

GOVERNANCE

6. Afghanistan reaffirms that the future of its political system will continue to reflect its pluralistic society and remain firmly founded on the Afghan Constitution. The Afghan people will continue to build a stable, democratic society, based on the rule of law, where the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens, including the equality of men and women, are guaranteed under the Constitution. Afghanistan recommits to upholding all of its international human rights obligations. Acknowledging that on this path Afghanistan will have its own lessons to learn, the International Community fully endorses this vision and commits to supporting Afghanistan's progress in that direction.

7. We have taken note of statements by Afghan civil society organizations, including today's statements by two of their delegates at this meeting. We all reaffirm that the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, including the rights of women and children, as well as a thriving and free civil society are key for Afghanistan's future. Therefore, we underscore the further promotion of civil society participation, including both traditional civil society structures and modern manifestations of civic action, including the role of youth, in the country's democratic processes.

8. We recognise that building a democratic society above all entails enabling legitimate and effective civilian authority embodied in a democratically elected government and served by transparent and strong, functioning institutions. Despite significant achievements, Afghanistan needs to continue its work to strengthen state institutions and improve governance throughout the country, including through reforming the civil service and strengthening the linkage between justice reform and development of its security institutions, including an effective civilian police force. Strengthening and improving Afghanistan's electoral process will be a key step forward in the country's democratization. Afghan government institutions at all levels should increase their responsiveness to the civil and economic needs of the Afghan people and deliver key services to them. In this context, the protection of civilians, strengthening the rule of law and the fight against corruption in all its forms remain key priorities. We will move this agenda forward, in accordance with our commitments under the Kabul Process in line with the principle of mutual accountability.

9. Consistent with Transition, we reaffirm that the role of international actors will evolve further from direct service delivery to support and capacity-building for Afghan institutions, enabling the Government of Afghanistan to exercise its sovereign authority in all its functions. This process includes the phasing out of all Provincial Reconstruction Teams, as well as the dissolution of any structures duplicating the functions and authority of the Government of Afghanistan at the national and sub-national levels.

10. We support the crucial role of the United Nations in Afghanistan. We express our gratitude to the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative Staffan de Mistura for his dedicated service, and welcome the Secretary General's decision to appoint Jan Kubis as his new Special Representative for Afghanistan. We note that the UNAMA mandate is currently under review in

line with the increased capacity and ownership exercised by the Government of Afghanistan and consistent with the process of Transition that entails the assumption of leadership responsibility by the Afghan Government. We also take note with appreciation of the close collaboration of the International Contact Group with the Afghan Government and their work, and encourage them to continue their joint efforts.

SECURITY

11. We welcome the determination of the Afghan people to combat terrorism and extremism and take responsibility for their own security and for protecting their homeland. We share Afghanistan's vision for its national security forces to be built to modern standards and adequate capacity, so that they can effectively and independently defend Afghanistan.

12. We welcome the successful start of the Transition process. Afghan authorities are assuming full security responsibility for their country and will complete this process by the end of 2014. Correspondingly, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), authorized by the United Nations Security Council, has begun a gradual, responsible draw-down to be completed by that time. With the conclusion of the Transition process, our common responsibility for Afghanistan's future does not come to a close. The International Community, therefore, commits to remain strongly engaged in support of Afghanistan beyond 2014.

13. We underscore that the international support for sustainable Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) needs to continue after 2014. In assistance to the ANSF, the International Community strongly commits to support their training and equipping, financing and development of capabilities beyond the end of the Transition period. It declares its intent to continue to assist in their financing, with the understanding that over the coming years this share will gradually be reduced, in a manner commensurate with Afghanistan's needs and its increasing domestic revenue generation capacity. In this context, we look forward to define a clear vision and appropriately funded plan for the ANSF, which should be developed before the forthcoming NATO summit in Chicago in May 2012.

14. We recognise that the main threat to Afghanistan's security and stability is terrorism, and that this threat also endangers regional and global peace and security. In this regard, we recognise the regional dimensions of terrorism and extremism, including terrorist safe havens, and emphasise the need for sincere and result-oriented regional cooperation towards a region free from terrorism in order to secure Afghanistan and safeguard our common security against the terrorist threat. We reiterate our common determination to never allow Afghanistan to once again become a haven for international terrorism.

15. The production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics equally pose a grave threat to Afghanistan's security and the growth of a legitimate economy as well as to international peace and stability. Recognizing their shared responsibility, Afghanistan and the International Community reiterate their determination to counter, in a comprehensive manner, including by crop eradication, interdiction and promoting alternative agriculture, the menace of illicit drugs, including drug precursors, which causes widespread harm and

suffering. We recognise that the narcotics problem is a global challenge which also requires tackling the demand side.

PEACE PROCESS

16. We stress the need for a political solution in order to achieve peace and security in Afghanistan. To ensure enduring stability, in addition to building up Afghanistan's capacity to defend itself, a political process is necessary, of which negotiation and reconciliation are essential elements. In addition, the process of reintegration will pave the way for post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghan society through improvement of security, community development and local governance.

17. We condemn in the strongest terms the assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, former President of Afghanistan and Chairman of the High Peace Council. The International Community welcomes and supports the undeterred peace efforts of the Afghan Government, particularly through the High Peace Council and the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme. We also take note of the recommendations of the consultative Traditional Loya Jirga of 16-19 November 2011, which provided a new impetus to the peace process.

18. Mindful of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the International Community concurs with Afghanistan that the peace and reconciliation process and its outcome must be based on the following principles:

(a) The process leading to reconciliation must be

- truly Afghan-led and Afghan-owned; as well as
- inclusive, representing the legitimate interests of all the people of Afghanistan, regardless of gender or social status.

(b) Reconciliation must contain

- the reaffirmation of a sovereign, stable and united Afghanistan;
- the renunciation of violence;
- the breaking of ties to international terrorism;
- respect for the Afghan Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women.

(c) The region must respect and support the peace process and its outcome.

An outcome of the peace process respecting the above principles will receive the full support of the International Community.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

19. The International Community shares Afghanistan's aim of achieving self-reliance and prosperity through developing its human and resource potential on its path towards sustainable and equitable growth and improved standards of living, and welcomes the Afghan Government's economic Transition strategy as elaborated in the document *Towards a Self-Sustaining Afghanistan*. Shifting the strategy from stabilisation to long-term development cooperation, the International Community will continue to support Afghanistan, including

in the areas of rule of law, public administration, education, health, agriculture, energy, infrastructure development and job creation, in line with the Afghan Government's priorities as specified in the National Priority Programmes framework under the Kabul Process.

20. As the Afghan government sets priorities, embraces reform and meets its Kabul commitments, including strengthening transparent and accountable public financial management systems and improving budget execution capacity, its partners recommit to meeting the minimum targets set in London and Kabul for aligning international assistance with Afghanistan's priorities and channelling a growing share of development aid through the government budget. We welcome the Government of Japan's intention to host a ministerial conference in July 2012 in Tokyo, which will address, in addition to the coordination of international economic assistance through the Transition period, Afghanistan's strategy for sustainable development, including aid effectiveness and regional economic cooperation.

21. As Transition gathers momentum, we recognise the economic risks identified by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, including the economic impact tied to the reduction of the international military presence. We intend to mitigate this effect, including by increasing aid effectiveness, consistent with the Kabul Process. The International Community shares Afghanistan's concern that a strategy to address the near-term effects of Transition must also facilitate the goal of attaining a sustainable market economy in line with the social needs of the population.

22. The intensive international effort in Afghanistan over the last decade represents a unique engagement. The International Community's commitment, both to Afghanistan and to its role in international security, lasts beyond Transition. Transition will reduce the international presence and the financial requirements associated with it. We recognize that the Government of Afghanistan will have special, significant and continuing fiscal requirements that cannot be met by domestic revenues in the years following Transition. Therefore, during the Transformation Decade, the International Community commits to directing financial support, consistent with the Kabul Process, towards Afghanistan's economic development and security-related costs, helping Afghanistan address its continuing budget shortfall to secure the gains of the last decade, make Transition irreversible, and become self-sustaining.

23. Afghanistan's long-term economic growth will, above all, depend on the development of its productive sectors, notably agriculture and mining. The International Community commits to supporting the development of an export-oriented agriculture-based economy, which is crucial for Afghanistan to achieve food security, poverty reduction, widespread farm-based job creation, and expanding the Government's revenue generation capacity. Concerning mining, we welcome the growing interest of international investors in Afghanistan's mineral wealth but emphasise the need for a regulatory framework to guarantee that this mineral wealth directly benefits the Afghan people. The International Community supports Afghanistan's efforts to develop a transparent and accountable regulatory regime, consistent with international best practices, for collecting and managing public resources and preserving the environment.

24. We recognise that a vibrant, private sector-led economy in Afghanistan will require the development of a competitive service industry and a stable financial system, and achieving regional integration through expanding Afghanistan's trade and transit networks, as well as its regional connectivity. The International Community commits to support Afghanistan's efforts to put in place and enhance the infrastructure and the relevant regulatory frameworks for the development of trade and transit.

25. We emphasize that attracting private investment, including from international sources, are key priorities for activating Afghanistan's economic potential. The Afghan Government commits to improving conditions conducive to international investments, inter alia, by implementing the recommendations of the EUROMINES International Investors Forum in Brussels on 26 October 2011.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

26. We believe that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan can only be envisioned in a stable and prosperous region. For the entire region, the rewards of peace and cooperation outweigh those of rivalry and isolation by far. We endorse Afghanistan's vision for building strong, sustainable bilateral and multilateral relationships with its near and extended neighbours. Such relationships should end external interference, reinforce the principles of good-neighbourly relations, non-interference and sovereignty, and further Afghanistan's economic integration into the region.

27. We welcome the outcome of the "Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia" of 2 November 2011. In particular, we take note of the principles concerning territorial integrity, sovereignty, non-intervention and the peaceful settlement of disputes contained in the Istanbul Process, which we support as a valuable step towards building greater confidence and cooperation in the 'Heart of Asia' region. We call for strict adherence by Afghanistan and its regional partners to these principles, and look forward to the follow-up Ministerial Conference in June 2012 in Kabul.

28. With a view to the long-term prospects for Afghanistan's development, we share Afghanistan's vision of a well-connected, economically integrated region, where Afghanistan can serve as a land-bridge connecting South Asia, Central Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East. We support enhanced trade connectivity along historical trade routes to utilize Afghanistan's economic potential at the regional level. In this context, we recognize the importance of early implementation of sustainable projects to promote regional connectivity, such as the TAPI gas pipeline, CASA-1000, railways and other projects. In this context, we look forward to the 5th RECCA conference to be hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe in March 2012.

29. We acknowledge the burden of Afghanistan's neighbours, in particular Pakistan and Iran, in providing temporary refuge to millions of Afghans in difficult times and are committed to further work towards their voluntary, safe and orderly return.

THE WAY FORWARD

30. With a view to the future, we underscore that the process of Transition, which is currently underway and is to be completed by the end of 2014, should be followed by a decade of Transformation, in which Afghanistan consolidates its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable state in the service of its people. This Transformation Decade will see the emergence of a new paradigm of partnership between Afghanistan and the International Community, whereby a sovereign Afghanistan engages with the International Community to secure its own future and continues to be a positive factor for peace and stability in the region.

31. At today's meeting, Afghanistan laid out its vision of the future: a country that is a stable and functioning democracy, a strong and sustainable state in the service of its people, and a prospering economy. Embedded in a region that is conducive to prosperity and peace, and enjoying friendly relations with all of its near and extended neighbours, Afghanistan aspires to becoming a contributor to international peace and security.

32. With a view to realizing the above vision, the International Community and Afghanistan make firm mutual commitments to continue to working together in a spirit of partnership. Afghanistan reiterates its commitment to continue to improve governance, while the International Community commits to an enduring engagement with Afghanistan through and beyond 2014.

33. Today in Bonn, we solemnly declare a strategic consensus on deepening and broadening the partnership between Afghanistan and the International Community founded at the Petersberg ten years ago. Building on the shared achievements of the past ten years, and recognising that the security and well-being of Afghanistan continue to affect the security of the entire region and beyond, Afghanistan and the International Community strongly commit to this renewed partnership for the Transformation Decade.

Adopted on 5 December 2011 by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Albania, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Armenia, Australia, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federative Republic of Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Bulgaria, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, Georgia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Iceland, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, Ireland, the Republic of Italy, Japan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Latvia, the Lebanese Republic, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, the Republic of Malta, the United Mexican States, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Kingdom of Norway, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, the

State of Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Tunisia, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as well as the Aga Khan Development Network, the Asian Development Bank, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the United Nations, and the World Bank Group.

United Nations S/2011/763

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 December 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 8 December 2011 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Republic of South Sudan, I have the pleasure to enclose a letter from Nhial Deng Nhial, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (see annex).

I should be most grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) David **Buom Choat**
Acting Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2011 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

5 December 2011

The Republic of South Sudan has pledged since achieving its independence to respect all aspects of international law. The foreign policy of South Sudan advocates non-interference in the affairs of other States and the respect of good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours. The Republic of South Sudan is appalled by the recent violent activities of the Government of Sudan on the Republic of South Sudan and protests in the strongest possible terms the invasion of our territory in a continuous and ever increasing manner in intensity and frequency.

The sovereign Republic of South Sudan informs the august house that on 3 December 2011, Sudan Armed Forces attacked the town of Jaw in Unity State with a mechanized infantry brigade and occupied it. This led to heavy human and material casualties and created the displacement of a large civilian population from the area.

Prior to this recent attack, the Sudan Armed Forces have consistently violated the territorial integrity of the Republic of South Sudan.

On 10 November 2011, the Sudan air force indiscriminately bombarded towns along the North-South borders around Guffa. A similar bombardment targeted Marinji in Upper Nile State and the Edda area in Unity State on 14 November 2011. Tumsah in Western Bahr el Ghazal State was also seriously air raided on 16 November 2011.

As a result of such unprovoked violations, 10 civilians were killed and many more injured and/or displaced, creating a serious humanitarian burden on South Sudan.

Other than these air violations, Sudan Armed Forces deployed ground forces together with proxy militias that it had forcefully conscripted and trained.

On 10 and 16 November, Sudan Armed Forces crossed the North-South border from Hamra (South Kordofan) and attacked Sudan People's Liberation Army units at Kuek in Upper Nile State.

On 28 November, Um-Dolwich Agricultural Scheme in Renk County, Upper Nile State, was attacked, resulting in four Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers killed, one missing in action and one taken prisoner. Earlier violations before 10 November are not listed.

While the Republic of South Sudan Government and people deplore this behaviour by the Republic of the Sudan of inflaming the region, whereas the Republic of South Sudan restrains the Sudan People's Liberation Army from responding appropriately, it urges the Security Council to call upon the Government of the Republic of the Sudan to live up to previous commitments and responsibilities under international law and regional responsibilities and to:

- Immediately withdraw its invading forces from Jaw
- Immediately release the Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers taken prisoner at Um-Dolwich

- Immediately cease acts of aggression that escalate the situation and push early resumption of conflict
- Urge the international community to exert more pressure on the Government of the Sudan, to respect the sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan and its territorial integrity.

(*Signed*) Nhial **Deng Nhial**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Republic of South Sudan

United Nations A/66/599–S/2011/764

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 December 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 83
The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 8 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your kind attention to the provocative and covert operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States Government, which have increased and intensified in recent months.

In the continuation of such trend, recently, an American RQ-170 unmanned spy plane, bearing a specific serial number, violated Iran's air space. This plane flew 250 kilometres deep into Iranian territory up to the northern region of the city of Tabas, where it faced prompt and forceful action by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is not the only act of aggression and covert operation by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the past, the Iranian Government lodged its strong protests against similar acts by submitting several notes, including the notes dated 29 October 2008 and 11 February 2009 to the Government of the United States.

My Government emphasizes that this blatant and unprovoked air violation by the United States Government is tantamount to an act of hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran in clear contravention of international law, in particular the basic tenets of the Charter of the United Nations. The Iranian Government expresses its strong protest over these violations and acts of aggression and warns against the destructive consequences of the recurrence of such acts. The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its legitimate rights to take all necessary measures to protect its national sovereignty.

My Government hereby calls for the condemnation of such acts of aggression and requests for clear and effective measures to be taken to put an end to these dangerous and unlawful acts in line with the United Nations responsibilities to maintain international and regional peace and security, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

11-63155 (E) 121211

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It would be appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/ES-10/541–S/2011/765

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 December 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 8 December 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This is our second letter to you in the past 24 hours, aimed at drawing attention to the illegal and provocative actions being taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel's military aggression and colonization and its continuous provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people are heightening tensions on the ground, threatening to seriously destabilize the situation. This requires urgent redress by the international community, which must act to implement the rule of law and bring a halt to the gross violations being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people. The prospects for peace are contingent on such collective legal, political and moral action, including by the Security Council.

In yet another condemnable display of defiance, yesterday the Israeli Government announced an additional 14 more settlement units to be built in Occupied East Jerusalem in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Ras Al-Amud, as well as the seizure of 150 dunums of Palestinian agricultural lands in the town of Khadir, south of Bethlehem. The occupying Power also issued demolition orders for 14 Palestinian homes in the village of Susiya in southern Al-Khalil (Hebron). Moreover, it has been reported that this week the occupying Power will complete the construction of the Wall around the Shufaat refugee camp in Occupied East Jerusalem. The completion of this illegal Wall will totally isolate and entrap the 45,000 refugees in the camp, who will only be allowed to enter or exit the camp through one checkpoint, forced to go through it even to access the rest of their own City. We must thus reiterate: the destructive impact of Israel's illegal settlement campaign in all its manifestations is massive, on the ground, on the prospects for credible peace negotiations, and on the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

11-63161 (E) 131211

Please recycle

Unquestionably, Israel's illegal colonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is gravely impairing the contiguity, the integrity and the viability of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The impact on Occupied East Jerusalem as a result of policies and measures specifically targeting the City is most intense. In addition to home demolitions, evictions and illegal excavations of religious sites in the Holy City, the occupying Power has "ordered" the closure within a week of a wooden access ramp to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, the third holiest site in Islam. In this regard, it should be noted that Al-Magharbah Gate is one of the main entrances to Al-Aqsa Mosque and that it is the responsibility of the Islamic Waqf to restore the ramp as is needed. This latest Israeli decision can be seen only as an attempt to further entrench control over and alter the character and identity of Occupied East Jerusalem, in clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including those adopted by the Security Council.

In addition to the above, over the past 24 hours, Israeli settlers have continued their rampage of terror in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli settlers fired at Palestinian shepherds near Yanun village, and in Asira Al-Qibliya settlers surrounded a house, stoned and vandalized it, smashing its windows, and threw paint on its walls. It must be recalled that Israel's illegal settlement drive and the settlers are funded, protected and armed by the Israeli Government, which has transferred and enabled them to live in these illegal settlements in grave breach of international law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and which allows them to commit such crimes against defenceless Palestinians with absolute impunity. The lawlessness of the settlers, including deadly violence, terror, harassment and intimidation against Palestinian civilians and their properties, is facilitated, aided and abetted by the occupying Power, which bears full responsibility for the settlers' illegal presence and all of their illegal actions.

At the same time, for the second day in a row, the occupying Power continued its military assaults against the Gaza Strip, killing, injuring and spreading fear among the 1.5 million civilians living there. Today, an Israeli airstrike on a car near a crowded park in downtown Gaza City killed two Palestinians, one of whom was nearly decapitated and the others whose body was dismembered. In addition to the trauma caused to those who witnessed this barbaric attack, five bystanders were injured as a result, some seriously.

The international community has a direct legal and moral responsibility to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation and to ensure that all parties adhere to their responsibilities in the Charter and as outlined in relevant United Nations resolutions. The Security Council in specific must uphold its duties in this regard and take serious action to hold Israel accountable for all of its violations. We thus reiterate our call upon the international community to give due attention to the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure that timely measures and action be undertaken to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt completely all its illegal and aggressive policies against the Palestinian people and their land, including settlement expansion and settler violence, extrajudicial executions, excessive and lethal force against Palestinians and home demolitions, and to finally commit to the pursuit of peace, if we are to have any chance to salvage the two-State solution.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 412 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 December 2011 (A/ES-10/540-S/2011/761) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda Abdelhady **Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/66/588–S/2011/766

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 6 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 5 December 2011 regarding the holding of Russian Parliamentary elections in the occupied Georgian territories by the Russian Authorities (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

11-63793 (E) 161211

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Annex to the identical letters dated 6 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the holding of Russian Parliamentary elections in the occupied Georgian territories by the Russian Authorities

Tbilisi, 5 December 2011

On 4 December 2011, the Russian Federation, violating the fundamental principles of international law, illegally held elections to the State Duma in the occupied Abkhazian and Tskhinvali regions without the consent of the Central Government of Georgia. The Russian Central Election Commission opened 12 so-called "electoral districts" in the occupied territories. The constituency participating in the elections was represented by the segment of the local population which, as a result of the illegal policy of passportization, possesses Russian passports and by personnel of the Russian occupation forces.

In doing so, the Russian Federation has once again violated universally accepted principles of international law. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the international community to adequately assess the mentioned violation.

United Nations A/66/601–S/2011/767

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 38
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 December 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the "Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan" adopted in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 November 2011 (see annex).

We request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zahir **Tanin**
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative of Turkey
to the United Nations

11-63266 (E) 161211

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan

2 November 2011

1. We have convened in Istanbul on 2 November 2011, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, and at the joint invitation of H.E. Mr. Zalmai Rassoul, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, to reaffirm our strong commitment to a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan in a secure and stable region.

2. We affirm the commitments enshrined in the 2002 Kabul Declaration of Good Neighbourly Relations and agree that promoting regional security and cooperation requires measures to build confidence and trust among countries. Hence, we will be guided by the following set of common principles and commitments, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- Recognition of the central role of the United Nations in international affairs
- Equal and indivisible security
- Respect for the territorial integrity of States
- Non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States
- Support for the stability and peace in Afghanistan, as well as respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity
- Continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan, as they develop their country, reconstruct their economy, and further improve their human capital
- Resolutely combating and eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and violent extremism, and preventing safe havens for terrorists and terrorism in the region
- Dismantling terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism
- Acknowledging that terrorism poses a threat to international peace and security as well as a common challenge to our societies, to the region, and that it can only be addressed through the concerted efforts of all countries
- Facilitating the voluntary, dignified, and orderly return of Afghan refugees
- Support for an inclusive Afghan national process of reconciliation, in accordance with the Constitution of Afghanistan and in ways which is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven
- Constructive and supportive relationship between countries of the region

- Refraining from the threat or use of force and not to allow one's territory to be used against another
- Elimination of illicit drug production, trade and trafficking
- Preventing the cultivation and production of narcotics
- Preventing the activities of extremist organizations and organized crime networks through enhanced cooperation
- Supporting and promoting law enforcement cooperation
- Peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law
- Fulfilment of obligations under international law

3. Afghanistan and its international and regional partners will seek to develop and coordinate contributions to advance the above-stated principles.

4. We recognize Afghanistan's role as the land bridge in the "Heart of Asia", connecting South Asia, Central Asia, Eurasia and the Middle East, and reaffirm our support in the strongest possible terms to the secure, stable and peaceful future of Afghanistan. We welcome Afghanistan's willingness and determination to use its regional and historical position to do its part to promote security and peaceful economic cooperation in the region.

5. We respect Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent, democratic State, which constitutes an integral component of the peace, well-being and prosperity of the region and beyond. We support the Government of Afghanistan's priorities on the issues of security, governance, economy, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and regional cooperation.

6. We re-emphasize our determination to help Afghanistan fight terrorism and illicit drugs. In return, Afghanistan reiterates its commitment to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbours, and to assure them that its relations with any State, on which it will be transparent, will not be directed against any third party. Afghanistan also reconfirms its will and determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, strengthen its economy, especially by ensuring good governance, promotion of investments, and addressing corruption, fight radicalism and narcotrafficking, respect human rights, in particular the rights of women, and to work together with its friends and partners for enhanced regional cooperation.

7. We reiterate our resolve to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism in all its forms and manifestations, the financing, harbouring, training and equipping of such activities, and acknowledge that terrorism, extremism and separatism pose a common challenge that can only be addressed through concerted efforts by countries of the region and the broader international community.

8. We will strengthen cooperation with Afghanistan, as well as regional and international cooperation, to counter the threat posed by the illicit production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility. Cooperation in combating the illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption should be exercised in a comprehensive manner and comprise poppy and cannabis crop eradication, elimination of drug laboratories, interception of drug caravans, detention of drug traffickers, freezing proceeds from

illicit drugs, diversion of drug precursors, as well as introduction of alternative agriculture projects and strengthening measures directed at reduction of the level of drugs consumption in regional and international markets.

9. In assisting Afghanistan, we endorse its efforts at promoting an inclusive reconciliation process and welcome and support the efforts of the High Peace Council, and the implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme. We strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack which took the life of the former President and Head of the High Peace Council, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. We will continue to support Afghan-led efforts to reconcile and reintegrate those Afghan militant elements who renounce violence, cut links with terrorist groups, and accept the Afghan Constitution. We remain convinced that a peaceful Afghanistan, with functioning institutions and strengthened security forces, is key to a successful regional cooperation. We remind that the international community and the region are not separated and emphasize that we all have a stake in the security and stability of the region.

10. We mark our full support to the ongoing process of transition of responsibility for providing security in Afghanistan from the International Security Assistance Force/North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Afghan National Security Forces in the framework of the "Kabul Process". We remain convinced that progress to be made between now and 2014, when transition will be completed, will make a decisive impact on the future course of efforts under way in Afghanistan. However, transition should assist Afghanistan and development of its relevant structures with a sustained support in the form of long-term commitments to be made by regional and international partners. We welcome ongoing efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its regional partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other as well as relevant cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations. The promotion of a sound regional cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" will be an important contribution to these efforts. In this context, enhanced trade connectivity along historical trade routes will also constitute an added value and will require conducive regional environment.

11. We recognize that Afghanistan is today at a critical juncture. It still faces significant security, economic, and development challenges, which are of an interconnected nature. These challenges cannot be addressed without building upon the already constructive support of Afghanistan's regional and international partners. The efforts to meet these challenges are most effective when they are Afghan-owned and driven, and supported by all partners and pursued in a transparent and constructive manner.

12. While not all challenges specifically affect each country in similar degree, no single State or international organization can deal with these challenges by itself. A concerted effort towards stability and prosperity is needed. Consequently, regional and international cooperation are indispensable to address challenges.

13. We declare our readiness to engage in sincere, result-oriented cooperation at all levels, which will not just help Afghanistan, but will also be beneficial to security and prosperity in the region as a whole. We welcome the central and impartial role of the United Nations, in line with the Security Council mandate, and we recognize the important role of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, the

Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation in strengthening regional security and promoting regional cooperation. We welcome the participation of Afghanistan in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as its application to obtain the status of observer State with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

14. Similarly, we also positively take note of those bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral initiatives between Afghanistan and the regional countries that could contribute to the improvement of regional cooperation. We welcome and support all these mechanisms, organizations and processes that add value to regional dimension. We also welcome various efforts aimed at intensifying cooperation and dialogue between Afghanistan and regional countries, recognizing the intertwined nature of various challenges faced by all countries in the region. Our regional cooperation vision is not intended to substitute them, but to build synergy between these efforts.

15. These fundamental frameworks and principles of cooperation among countries are unequivocally pertinent in dealing with challenges. We note the value of a more coherent and structured approach to individual initiatives. We pledge to give strong emphasis and further impetus to the ongoing regional cooperation endeavours.

16. With this understanding, based on the principles, including guarantees of territorial integrity, sovereignty and refraining from the threat or use of force to resolve disputes; guarantees for non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States; and peaceful settlement of disputes according to international law, stated in this document, we will endeavour to build confidence through broad ranging and effective confidence-building measures, where appropriate and based on self-differentiation basis, which may include, but not be limited to, the areas listed hereafter.

(A) In the political and security field:

- Enhanced cooperation for fighting terrorism, including through exchange of information
- Participation in civil emergency planning to assess risks and reduce vulnerability of the civil population to terrorism
- Enhancement of cooperation among Afghanistan and its immediate neighbours for effective border controls
- Creation or enhancement of conditions conducive to the voluntary and safe return of refugees, in a dignified and orderly manner
- Exchange of information regarding forces responsible for counter-terrorism operations and facilitate contacts among them as appropriate
- Cooperation and interaction among regional countries in the area of counter narcotics and the trafficking of illegal goods and lethal substances, and their

precursors, including enhancing bilateral efforts to prevent illicit movement of personnel and material across international borders

- Development of joint guidelines for cooperation in the field of disaster management

(B) In the economic field:

- Build, where appropriate, on the model of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, ways to expand trade across the region
- Trade facilitation strategy: the development of a coherent strategy to develop a regionally coherent trade and border management
- Preferential Trade Agreement within the region without prejudice to existing trading agreements
- Establishment of databases and a system of data exchange in trade and economic spheres
- Improvement of the exchange of information on commercial opportunities and specific trading conditions
- Improvement in the provisions for the settlement of commercial disputes, including various forms of arbitration
- A strategy to encourage participation of the private sector in regional development programmes, including through private sector-public sector joint ventures
- Exchange of information on development of international tourism and tourist infrastructure and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts
- Exchange of information regarding suspicious financial transactions, illegal financial operations and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between appropriate authorities
- Facilitation of the development of cooperation in the various fields of environment
- Improvement of business contacts and facilities
- Encourage the establishment of a framework for enhanced cooperation among Chambers of Commerce
- Training of personnel in various fields of economic activity
- The development of a coherent strategy to develop and maintain a regionally connecting infrastructure, with support from international partners
- Encouraging Afghanistan's role as a land-bridge, connecting the region through cooperation and completion of bridges on transboundary rivers, roads and railway networks; in this connection, focusing on construction of new automobile bridges over the Panj River in Kokul and Ayvaj fields of Tajikistan and supporting the implementation of the project on a railway route from East, Central, South and West Asia and to the sea routes through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan with existing Uzbekistan-Afghanistan railway being connected to a prospective Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan

railway, and supporting the implementation of the project on a railway route from Iran to Afghanistan, the Khaf-Herat Railway

- Cooperation on easier flow of energy resources within, from and across the region, especially with regard to electricity, minerals, oil and gas, including their exploitation and transit, through regional projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline and the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Trade and Transmission Project which has to be implemented with a broader financial contribution, as well as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank
- Wider support for Tajikistan's efforts to conduct the Fifth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA V) which is planned to be held on 26-27 March 2012 in Dushanbe. Among other agenda items, the Conference will consider the proposal from Afghanistan and Tajikistan on enhancing trade connectivity along historical trade routes. On the margins of the RECCA V, we support the organization of a business forum and a forum of scientists and researchers
- Exploring the possibility of cooperation in the development of hydroelectric power and in the sphere of water management without prejudice to existing agreements
- Consider, wherever appropriate and mutually agreed, development of large-scale irrigation works without prejudice to existing agreements
- A more effective regional cooperation in the agricultural and rural fields
- The development of infrastructure around the main ports and linking them via road and railroad for shipment of goods and energy to and from Central Asia, South Asia, Eurasia and the Black Sea

(C) In the education field:

- Setting up a structured regional education exchange programme with places reserved in universities for students from neighbouring States within the region
- Broadening cooperation and exchanges in the fields of education and science on a short or long-term basis
- Expansion of links between State institutions and non-governmental bodies whose activities are concerned with questions of education and science and including scientific exchanges, exchange of students, joint events
- Ensure that radical and hatred references are removed from education curriculum
- Reform the curricula that promote extremism
- Promotion of the role of mass media as a driver for democratic development and mutual understanding, and to spread messages of peace, harmony and tolerance
- Establishing a multidisciplinary professional and technical training centre in Tajikistan which is aimed at preparing civilian specialists for the needs of the Afghanistan economy, with support of international community

(D) In the cultural field:

- Joint projects aimed at disseminating information on various cultures and traditions in the region
- Cooperation in preserving valuable cultural, historical, archaeological and religious assets
- A common fight by all nations in the region against all forms and manifestations of violence
- A joint effort to promote the true nature of Islam as a religion of peace, tolerance and human accomplishment
- Promotion of interfaith and intracultural dialogue

(E) In the legal field:

- Considering, where appropriate and on the basis of reciprocity, relaxation of visa regimes
- Considering relaxation of rules and restrictions at border crossings for legitimate travellers on the basis of reciprocal arrangements
- Promotion of law enforcement cooperation

17. Through the Istanbul Process, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening regional security and cooperation, including for the purpose of building a secure and stable Afghanistan. To that end, we have decided to redouble and better coordinate our efforts through bilateral channels and existing multilateral frameworks and future meetings at Ministerial and technical level. The Istanbul Process will be developed and marked by consensus decision-making of participating States.

18. In this regard, we will continue to exchange views on ways and means to implement our decisions.

19. As the first follow-up on the Istanbul Conference, we have decided to meet again at the ministerial level in Kabul in June 2012.

20. The Kabul Ministerial meeting will be preceded by a preparatory meeting at technical level chaired by Afghanistan. To that effect, Afghanistan will circulate a concept paper by the end of January 2012, outlining the agenda of the meeting.

21. Having stated the above, we recognize that the challenge we intend to meet remains considerable. But, through these confidence-building measures, we are aiming at a new mindset of cooperation in the region.

22. The ambitious objective of enhanced regional cooperation, with and around Afghanistan, will need to overcome many hurdles. However, the benefits for Afghanistan and its region will reward this ambition and be worth the endeavours.

23. The participants to the Istanbul Conference wish to express their gratitude to the Republic of Turkey for the generous hospitality and commitment to promoting regional cooperation.

Adopted on 2 November 2011 by the "Heart of Asia" Countries which consist of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the

Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Welcomed and supported by the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Poland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the United Nations, Economic Cooperation Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the European Union, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

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United Nations A/ES-10/542–S/2011/768

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 12 December 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel is escalating its military assaults and human rights violations against the Palestinian people. In the past several days, air strikes and excessive force by the occupying Power have caused death and injury to more Palestinian civilians, including children. Along with the incessant escalation of Israel's colonization campaign and the terror wrought by Israeli settlers throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, these crimes are further traumatizing the Palestinian population and causing the rapid rise of tensions and instability on the ground.

On Friday, 9 December 2011, such brute force caused 14 casualties in one family, whose home was hit by a missile launched by Israeli warplanes into a civilian area in north-west Gaza City. This military attack caused the collapse of the Za'alan family home, killing the father, 38-year-old Bahjat Za'alan, and his 10-year-old son, Ramadan Za'alan, and injuring 12 other members of the family, many severely, including 6 other innocent children. Indeed, the wounds sustained by 10-year-old Ramadan Za'alan, which led to his death later that day, reflect the lethal impact of Israeli weaponry used against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population.

On the same day, the Israeli occupying forces killed yet another Palestinian civilian in the West Bank. Every Friday, Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, gather alongside Israeli and international peace activists to protest Israel's illegal construction of the annexation Wall on confiscated Palestinian land, and these peaceful protesters are typically subjected to excessive force by the occupying army, resulting in numerous casualties, including the death and maiming of several people. On Friday, 9 December, in the village of Nabi Saleh, north of Ramallah, occupying forces fired tear gas canisters at protesters at close range, striking Mustafa Tamimi, age 28, in the head. The other protesters witnessed the impact of the metal canister blowing off

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half of Tamimi's face while Israeli soldiers looking on just laughed, reflecting the callousness of the occupying forces and their absolute disregard for and belittling of human life when it comes to the Palestinian people.

Tragically, Tamimi died of wounds on Saturday, 10 December, coinciding with the day that the international community pays tribute to human rights defenders worldwide in commemoration of the sixty-third anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tamimi is the twentieth person to be killed by Israel in such peaceful demonstrations since 2002. Further adding to this tragedy, mourners at his funeral were also struck with tear gas canisters by the occupying forces, and six were arrested, including four Israelis and two international activists.

In yet another incident indicative of Israel's daily brutality, a 37-year-old Palestinian taxi driver, Haitham Ibrahim Kabha, was stopped on Saturday, 10 December, at a checkpoint on a road to Jenin and was forcibly removed from his vehicle and beaten by the occupying forces, who caused a fracture in his back and severe head and neck injuries. According to one witness, soldiers beat Kabha repeatedly until he was rendered unconscious. An Israeli ambulance near the checkpoint did not stop to provide him with aid, while at the same time, the soldiers prevented a Palestinian ambulance from reaching him for at least half an hour, until they were pressured to allow access to it by protests at the checkpoint.

Excessive force was also on flagrant display by the occupying Power against Palestinian youth from the Shufaat refugee camp in Occupied East Jerusalem on Sunday, 11 December. Shufaat residents were protesting the construction of a new Israeli military checkpoint at the entrance of the camp, which is now completely surrounded by the Wall and which will leave the camp totally isolated from the rest of the City. Young people protesting against the Wall and the checkpoint, which will control all movement into and out of the camp, were responded to by the occupying forces with water cannons and other brutal measures. Also, earlier in the week, at least 300 Israeli soldiers in armoured vehicles and accompanied by bulldozers stormed the villages of Deir Ghassana and Beit Rima near Ramallah on 8 December, raiding homes and mosques.

At the same time, extremist Israeli settlers continue their terror campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Overnight yesterday, hundreds of armed settlers from the illegal "Yitzhar" settlement raided the village of Asira al-Qibliya near Nablus, throwing rocks at Palestinian homes and smashing windows of homes and vehicles and attempting to burn other property, causing widespread fear among the villagers.

All of these illegal, violent and provocative actions by Israel, the occupying Power, and its illegal settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are further demonstration of the brutality meted out daily by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people and the massive human rights violations it is committing against a civilian population that is entitled to protection under international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in its entirety. The international community, including the Security Council, cannot remain silent or continue to only express regret or disappointment over Israel's violations. It is the responsibility of the international community to put an end to these crimes by the occupying Power, and this responsibility begins with holding Israel accountable under international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Regrettably, the failure to hold Israel accountable is only further emboldening its impunity, as it continues to arrogantly and recklessly pursue its illegal policies, including its expansionist settlement campaign, which continues apace, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, despite the clear legal prohibitions and resolutions and the global calls for a complete cessation of this unlawful campaign. Here, I am compelled to inform you that today it has been revealed that the Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, has approved the construction of another 40 new settlement units and a farm in the vicinity of Bethlehem. The plans for this illegal construction would be near the illegal settlement of "Efrat" and would result in the further expansion of the so-called "Etzion" settlement bloc, bringing it to the edges of Bethlehem and effectively cutting off the City, which is also surrounded by the Wall, from the rest of the southern West Bank.

Such incendiary and illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, are totally contradictory to the goal of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and thus to the ongoing effort of the Quartet to revive the peace process for the achievement of this objective. We reiterate that Israel's illegal settlement activities, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, are tearing apart the fabric of Palestinian society as they are destroying the contiguity, integrity and cohesion of the Palestinian Territory and the actual viability of the two-State solution. It is incumbent on the international community, particularly the Security Council, considering its duty under the Charter of the United Nations vis-à-vis international peace and security, to act forthwith to redress this grave matter that is making the realization of a peaceful, just and viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more elusive with each passing day.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 413 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 December 2011 (A/ES-10/541-S/2011/765), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations